Second Series Vol. XIX - No. 11 Monday, August 25, 1958

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Fifth Session)

(*Vol. XIX contains Nos. 11-20*)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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*N.B.*—The sign + marked above a name of a Member on Questions, which were orally answered indicates that the Question was orally asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

# LOK SABHA

*Monday, 25th August, 1958.*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Hostels for Children of Railway Employees

**139. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scrutiny of the commitments involved in the provision of the subsidised hostels for children of Railway employees has since been completed;

(b) if so, the nature of the decision arrived at; and

(c) the number of such hostels likely to be constructed?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). It has been decided to establish 12 subsidised hostels at different stations on the Indian Railways for the benefit of employees who are obliged to send their children away from their headquarters for the purpose of education.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know what would be the financial implications of this proposal?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** You mean the financial implications from the point of view of the expenses involved for the railways?

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Yes.

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** For that I shall require notice, because we will have to get the information from the railways.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know what will be the cost of constructing these hostels and how many students will be accommodated?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** We are going to accommodate approximately 1,500 students; to be exact 1,450

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** May I know whether any such hostel is going to be started in N.E.R. also?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** The idea is to have at least one hostel on each railway. For the N E R., it is not yet decided

**Mr. Speaker:** That is a small detail.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** My fear is that N.E.R. may be ignored That is why I asked this question.

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** I can assure the hon. Member that it will not be ignored.

**Shri Barman:** May I know the nature and the amount of subsidy for the hostels?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** The idea is to provide these hostels for the children of railway employees who are living at way-side stations and whose children do not have opportunities of going to good schools. We are putting up these hostels in places where good school facilities exist and we are going to subsidise the boarding part of it. That is, we will provide them accommodation and food. The actual quantum of subsidy is as follows. Empolyees drawing up to Rs. 100 will pay Rs. 7/8/- per month.

**Mr. Speaker:** Both for boarding and lodging?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Yes;, for both. This amount is recoverable from the parents of the students per month. For employees drawing from Rs. 101 to Rs. 200 per month, it is Rs. 12|8|- per month. For empolyees drawing from Rs. 201 to Rs. 300, it is Rs. 20 per month.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** May we know where these hostels are going to be located? He said they will be located at places where there are good school facilities. May we have an idea of the places?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** I can give the information. At present, arrangements have been made at Secunderabad, Dhond, Patna, Lucknow, Gauhati. Trichinopoly. Mysore, Olavakkot, Kharagpur, Cuttack. Anand and Ajmer

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** None of these places is in N.E R.

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** About N E R we will consider

**Shri B. K. Gaikwad:** May I know which railway employees' children will be admitted into these hostels?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Children of all Class III and Class IV railway employees.

**Shri B. K. Gaikwad:** If children of all employees are to be admitted into these hostels, then the children of advanced classes railway employees will be favoured and the backward classes employees' children will not be admitted. That is my fear.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well that is his suggestion that children of backward classes employees may be ignored.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** There was a provision in the budget for the establishment of a hostel at Secunderabad. May I know if the construction of that hostel at Secunderabad has been proceeded with?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Of course, I said we are going to construct a hostel at Secunderabad which will accommodate about 100 students. We will certainly proceed with that.

### Rajasthan Canal

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*440. { **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 1376 on the 1st April. 1958 and state:

(a) whether the Administrative and Supervisory machinery for the construction of Rajasthan Canal has been finalised;

(b) what programme, if any, has been drawn for the colonisation and development of social services in the area; and

(c) what agency has been set up for the purpose?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) None so far

(c) Does not arise.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know what difficulties have stood in the way of the administration in finalising these proposals?

**Shri Hathi:** The proposals have been sent to the respective Governments of Rajasthan and Punjab We are awaiting their reply.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I invite the hon. Minister's attention to what he stated in April? He said that the Rajasthan Government have agreed to set up a committee of direction and an administrative set up for the proper execution of the Rajasthan Canal Project. Then, why is it that the proposals have not been finalised all these five months?

**Shri Hathi:** They agreed in principle that these two committees should be set up. The details with regard to the functions, etc. have been under consideration of the Government.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know what is the nature of the proposals which have been made by the Central Government and what is the part which the Punjab Government is supposed to play?

**Shri Hathi:** The Punjab Government also has to do about 110 miles of canal excavation in their limits. The *remaining part has to be done in* the limits of the Rajasthan Government.

**Shri Kasliwai:** May I know by what time, the Chief Administrative Officer of the project will be appointed?

**Shri Hathi:** As soon as this set-up is approved, we shall appoint him.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** It was reported that Mr. Kunwar Sain, Chairman of the Central Water and Power Commission was to take over the execution of this project from the 1st of June. If that is so, what are the reasons which have stood in the way of his taking it over?

**Shri Hathi:** The Rajasthan Government had requested for the services of Mr. Kunwar Sain and the Government of India have decided to lend his services. His term will expire in October, after two months and by that time he will go there.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur** *rose*—

**Mr. Speaker:** I have allowed the hon. Member five questions. I cannot allow any more.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** If you will kindly permit me, I will ask one more question. There is no answer to part (b) of my question.

**Mr. Speaker:** There would not be any answer. These are questions with respect to which there cannot be answers to the entire satisfaction of the hon. Member.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Not to my satisfaction, but to your satisfaction, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am satisfied. The hon. Member and the hon. Minister come from nearly the same place and both are interested in this matter. Saurashtra has got merged in Bombay, which is near Rajasthan.

**Shri Hathi:** He knows all the facts.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** From the past experience gained by the hon. Minister and the report of the study teams regarding this colonisation, may I know what steps have been taken for the colonisation?

**Shri Hathi:** Steps will be taken as soon as the administrative set-up is finalised and the committee is appointed.

### Change in Air Routes

*441. **Shri Tangamani:**
**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
**Shri Damar:**
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines Corporation propose to revise the existing routes of scheduled air services;

(b) if so, when the change is likely to come into force; and

(c) whether any monetary gain would accrue to Government due to the changes?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are still being worked out

(c) One of the objects of the proposed revision of the route pattern is to avoid wasteful flying and thereby effect economy in expenditure.

**Shri Tangamani:** On the 15th June 1958, the Deputy Minister of Civil

Aviation stated in Madras that a separate route will be started for Madras-Madurai May I know when that is likely to start?

**Shri S. K. Patil**: I do not know about Madras-Madurai: But we are thinking of changing the pattern, and it may possibly result in having two more routes So far as this particular route is concerned, I have no information

**Shri Tangamani**: May I know whether, as a result of the recent increase in air fares, there has been an increase or a decrease in the number of passengers?

***Shri S. K. Patil**: It is too early to* say in a few weeks' time, but the figures that I know of indicate that the revenue will slightly increase

**Shri Basumatari**: What is the reason for the cancellation of the air service from Gauhati to Silchar?

**Shri S. K. Patil**: It is not part of this question, it is a different question

**Shri M. S. Murty**: May I know whether there is any proposal to have a route from Vizag to Hyderabad?

**Mr. Speaker**: Can they exhaust all the routes in a general question? The hon Minister may give one day the scheme as a whole and where the routes are likely to be changed

**Shri Jaipal Singh**: In what way will this revision or expansion or extension of the routes affect the non-scheduled operators? Will it improve their position or will it in any way invade them?

**Shri S. K. Patil**: It has nothing to do with the non-scheduled operators. Their position will remain just the same

**Shri Joachim Alva**: May I know whether the Lall Committee which made recommendations on the structure of rates had much to do with the raising of the rates?

**Shri S. K. Patil**: No, it has'nt, but generally it is always the intention of the Aviation Department to see that these services are run economically, and therefore constant revisions

**Shri Biren Roy**: Jodhpur previously was on the route between Delhi and Karachi as well as on the route Delhi-Jaipur-Jodhpur-Bombay. Will the hon Minister now include Jodhpur to be on the new revised schedule?

**Shri S. K. Patil**: That is still under consideration, but I can tell the House—because there seems to be an anxiety—there are two things that will be done One is, the services to be run economically That would be *one pattern of it And the other is* when the services have got to be run, although they may not be economically run It is another pattern And when it is to be devised, I would take the House into consideration

**Shri Dasappa**: May I know whether any suggestions have been called from the public the State Governments, Chambers of Commerce, etc?

**Shri S. K. Patil**: That is a very very difficult position If you go on asking for suggestions from everybody, it will take months and years before any pattern is changed

**Shri Tangamani**: When this route pattern is revised, may I know whether the fares also are likely to be revised?

**Shri S. K. Patil**: It is our intention not to increase the fares—unless we are pushed to do so And surely there is no idea of increasing the fare because of the change in the route pattern

### Food Production Targets

*442. **Shri Kodiyan**:
**Shri D. C. Sharma**:
**Sardar Iqbal Singh**:
**Shri Ram Krishan**:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target fixed for additional food production over the

**first two years of the Second Plan period as a result of the improved facilities and practices in agriculture;**

(b) whether there has been any **shortfall** in the actual achievement of **this target**;

(c) if so, to what extent; and

(d) the reasons for the shortfall?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas)**: (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 127].

**Shri Kodiyan**: From the statement it is seen that the targets fixed for the first two years of the Second Five Year Plan for additional food production have not been achieved fully. In view of this fact may I know what additional steps Government propose to take to see that at least the targets fixed for the remaining period of the Plan are achieved?

**Mr. Speaker**: We had a Food Debate for two days Whatever he has not been able to satisfy the hon. Member and hon. Members of this House in spite of that—and each time the hon Minister took an hour and a half to explain these matters—is he going to answer in a minute? I have no objection In fact, I must have disallowed it after the Food Debate.

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: The Government of India have examined in detail the causes for the shortfall in the achievement of the target. We have recently held a Conference of the States in the Southern and Eastern Regions and are also proposing to have one more Conference for the Central and Northern Regions. And the Regional Minor Irrigation Conferences have impressed on the State Governments the need for full utilisation of the irrigation potential already created and also giving top priority for the existing irrigation works. With regard to the shortfall in the matter of setting up of the seed farms, there is another question—that is No. 476—and so I am not answering it separately in this regard. Everything possible is being done to achieve the targets.

**Shri S. C. Gupta**: It is stated in the statement that one of the reasons for the shorfall is the reorganisation of States May I know whether those States which have not been affected, or which have been slightly affected, by the reorganisation had all lived up to the targets; and, if not, how many have lived up to the targets?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: They have shown a better performance than the other States which have been affected materially by the reorganisation . .

**Shri S. C. Gupta**: Have they fulfilled the targets?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: . although they have not completely fulfilled the targets.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh**: The hon. Minister stated just now that Conferences were recently held in the Southern and Eastern Zone and the need for the full utilisation of the irrigation potential was impressed upon the State Governments. May I know how long the Government will take to impress this need only, and whether they are in a position to state confidently that the full irrigation potential will be utilised, and in how many months?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: There has been the question of water cess which has been taken up with various State Governments As the honourable House is aware, the Bihar State Government have reacted favourably, and it has reduced the cess to a considerable extent Other State Governments are also taking the necessary steps, and we hope there will be full utilisation of the resources

**Shri D. C. Sharma**: May I know if the shortfall in the targets for these two years will be made good in 1958-59?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It may not be possible, Sir.

**Shri Tyagi:** May I know on what basis these targets were fixed, whether they were fixed in consultation with the State Governments, and if so, which State has failed most in fulfilling these targets?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It is not possible now to state seriatim the performance of each State. But the targets were fixed in consultation with the State Governments.

**Shri Ranga:** Is it a fact that the Andhra Government has sent certain proposals, not once but repeatedly, in order to enable them to bring more and more of the land which is supposed to be brought under irrigation *ayacut* under the K.C canal at Tungabhadra?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** In fact, the hon. Member knows that the Andhra Government's demands have been mostly met, and the further demands on account of minor irrigation are being considered. We are also taking up the matter with the Planning Commission.

**Shrimati Manjula Devi:** What is the total increase in production in Assam?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** According to the final estimate, the total area is 4,207,000 acres. The production of rice is 1,586,000 tons in 1957-58, and in 1956-57 it was 1,707,000 tons.

**Shri S. C. Gupta:** May I know whether West Bengal has fulfilled her target; or, if not, to what extent she has fallen short of her targets?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** With regard to West Bengal, the total rice production, according to the final estimate, has been 4 million tons in 1957-58; and in 1956-57 it was 4 million and 573 thousand tons.

### Purchase of American Liberty Ships

***448. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1858 on the 26th April, 1958 and state the further progress so far made in negotiations in connection with the purchase of American Liberty Ships?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** No further progress has been made so far in the negotiations in connection with the purchase of American Mothball Liberty Ships.. It may be mentioned that the free market price of Liberty Ships is at the moment so low that there is now no special advantage in going in for the Mothball ships unless they are released to us at a still lower price and on credit or instalment basis.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I take it that there will be no further negotiations for the purchase of these ships because they are not going to be economical?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I have already indicated in the reply that it depends on the terms that we finally get in regard to this particular transaction. As I said, if we find that they are economically good for us to procure and the condition that they should be only plied on coastal shipping is waived or settled favourably to us, we may consider it

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** Through what agency are the negotiations for the purchase of these ships being conducted?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We have got our Embassy in the United States. At the moment, the initiative lies with the Government of the U.S.A. to promote the necessary legislation for this purpose. We are awaiting that. The free market prices, as I said, have gone down to Rs. 20 lakhs and if we go to the free market, the condition that we shall have to ply them only on the coastal shipping will also be obviated.

**Shri Barman:** Apart from the consideration of the price, is it not a fact that considering the slow speed of these Liberty ships, they have become absolutely obsolete in the commercial world?

**Shri Raj Bahadur**: It is a question of comparative and relative merit of two ships. This is an old ship which had so far stood the test of time. But keeping in view the technological developments in the art of shipbuilding, ships are built with higher speeds and better efficiency; compared to them, these ships are not as good a proposition.

**Shri Tangamani**: In view of the fact that these Liberty ships are not only slow-moving but out-of-date and no private-owners are going in for them, will Government consider giving up the purchase of these ships?

**Shri Raj Bahadur**: *I do not think* they have completely gone out of date because they are yet plying on waters. But it is true that the market is no more a seller's market for them the buyers have ample choice now.

**Shrimati Manjula Devi**: May I know whether Government have any idea of purchasing ships from Japan which is quoting low prices?

**Shri Raj Bahadur**: We are now considering the question of Liberty ships here. Of course, we have got a yen credit to the extent of 5 billion and we are trying to have some ships against that credit.

### Training of Civil Pilots

*444. **Shri Supakar**: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 727 on the 7th March, 1958 and state:

(a) how many recommendations of the Committee on the selection. training and licensing of air pilots have been implemented so far; and

(b) whether Government are taking advantage of the offer of the Indian Air Force for training Civil Pilots?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil)**: (a) and (b). I lay on the Table of the Sabha a statement giving the requisite information. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 128.]

**Shri Biren Roy**: In view of the fact that flying training in most of the Flying Clubs has practically gone down in the whole of India because of the lack of planes as well as of the standard of our pilot instructors which were discussed in this Committee, what steps have now been taken to upgrade the standard of instructors in India, considering the fact that instrumentation in flying today has become very much complicated?

**Shri S. K. Patil**: This is quite a different subject that the hon. Member has introduced. But so far as the Committee are concerned, in what proportion we have our pilots from the Air Force and from our civil flying, that is under consideration. On the other question, I can assure the House that we shall do everything in our power to see that instruction is stepped up

**Shri Biren Roy**: In view of the fact that previously pilots were selected from a batch which was selected by Air India International, Airlines Corporation and representatives of D.G.C.A., notwithstanding that previously selections were on the basis of aptitude for flying which was recommended by all the Flying Clubs, will he come back to the criterion of flying aptitude for selection of pilots in future?

**Shri S. K. Patil**: All that is under consideration and until Government take a final decision as regards the recommendations of the Committee, it is premature on my part to give an answer.

**Shri Hem Barua**: May I know whether it is a fact that the Committee has recommended the establishment of a Flying Training School at a suitable location other than Allahabad to be jointly financed by the Air Corporations and Government? If so, what steps have Government so far taken towards implementation of that recommendation?

**Shri S. K. Patil**: I cannot say at this stage what the Committee's recommendations exactly are. But if it is necessary, in order to step up instruction, that we should have a school other than the one at Allahabad, surely we shall consider that

**Shri Joachim Alva:** It was revealed that the Pakistan plane which crashed was taken up by a pilot who had no night flying experience May I know if the Committee has recommended that night flying may be made a compulsory subject in the training?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Night flying is one of the compulsory subjects, and must be so Anybody who is not conversant with that must not be given charge of a plane

### गन्ने का बकाया मूल्य

*४४५ **श्री विभूति मिश्र** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

*(क) क्या यह सच है कि कई राज्यों के चीनी मिल क्षेत्रों में सरकार द्वारा स्थापित गन्ना विपणन संघों को १९५६–५७ और १९५७–५८ में किसानों द्वारा दिये गये गन्ने का मूल्य अभी चुकाना है और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उस बकाया राशि के भुगतान के सम्बन्ध में केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों को कोई हिदायतें दी हैं ?

**खाद्य तथा कृषि उपमंत्री (श्री अ० म० थामस)** (क) और (ख). इस विषय में भारत सरकार के पास कोई निश्चित सूचना नही है । सहकारी संस्थाओं द्वारा संस्था के सदस्यों को गन्ने का मूल्य चुकाने का कार्य, मुख्यतया संस्था के प्रबन्धकों और उनके सदस्यों का अपना आपस का मामला है । यह संस्थायें राज्य गन्ना आयुक्तों के तत्वावधान में स्टेट सूगरकेन (रेगुलेशन एंड परचेज) एक्ट्स तथा उनके अधीन बने हुये नियमों के अनुसार कार्य करती हैं ।

**श्री विभूति मिश्र** : अध्यक्ष जी, मुझे १२ अगस्त को इस मिनिस्ट्री से अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १४२ का जवाब मिला है जिसको देखने से पता चलता है कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान के आभसं का १, ६१,२६,००० रुपया बाकी है । आन्ध्र में ६ मिलों पर ३७,२८,००० बाकी है, आन्ध्र में एक मिल है बोबिली उस पर १३ लाख ८३ हजार बाकी है । इसी तरह से बिहार में मोतीहारी मिल पर ११,९०,००० बाकी है ।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय** . इतना आप क्यों पढ़ रहे हैं । Whatever report has been placed is there Let him ask the question Why does he go on reading?

**श्री विभूति मिश्र** अभी मंत्री जी ने बतलाया कि मुझे कुछ पता नहीं है मगर १२ अगस्त को मेरे अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १४२ के उत्तर में बतलाया गया है कि सारे देश के आग्रसं का १,६१,२६,००० रुपया बाकी है । इस चीनी के एक मन पर केन्द्रीय सरकार ६ रुपया ८ आना लेती है दो रुपया प्रति मन प्रान्तीय सरकार लेती है । इस तरह से चीनी पर सरकार का हक रहता है । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि किसान को उसका दाम दिलाने के लिये कौन जिम्मेवार है ?

**Shri A. M. Thomas** We are mainly concerned with the administration of the Sugarcane Control Order Statistics also regarding the arrears of cane prices between factories and the societies or individual growers who supply cane to the factories alone are maintained by us The other matter, as I have already stated, is one to be looked into by the various Cane Commissioners in the respective States But the information which has been given by my hon friend is not quite correct According to the information furnished by the U P Government, the arrears of cane prices lying with the unions for the last two seasons as on 1-7-1958 out of the total cane price of Rs 41,35,54,000, will come to

Rs. 4,98,000 or 0·12 per cent. The total cane price for 1957-58 will be Rs. 35,82,00,000 and the arrears will be about Rs. 27,00,000, that is, 0·76 per cent. In some cases, the unions have paid more than the amount due to the various growers; that will come to about Rs. 30·88 lakhs in U.P. itself. With regard to Bihar, no separate figures are available.

**Shri C. D. Pande:** Has it come to the notice of Government that in certain mills in U.P., particularly Baheri, Bareilly and Rampur, the mills were directed to pay 2 annas per maund a reduction which was formerly made on the allegation that the recovery was low, but when recovery was found to be average, this amount had to be paid? Even so, the arrears have not been paid. The hon. Minister assured me that they will be paid What is the reason for this non-payment?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Except with regard to one factory which was mentioned by my hon. friend, Shri **Tyagi, the** cut of 2 annas was restored in the case of all the other factories We will look into the matter whether the entire amount has been paid or not

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में कोई कदम उठाना चाहती है कि जो किसानों का रुपया बकाया है उसको जल्दी से जल्दी दिला दें ।

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** This is a matter which has to be taken up with the State Governments and the Cane Commissioners supervising the payment of cane delivered by the unions to their respective members.

**Sardar Iqbal Singh:** May I know whether any step has been taken by the Central Government also in this regard?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Ours is an advisory function in this matter.

## Water Supply for Irrigation to Delhi Villages

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*448. { **Shri Radha Raman:**
**Shri Naval Prabhakar:**

Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Villages primarily depend on Punjab for water for irrigation purposes and that water supplied by Punjab Government is neither sufficient nor available when it is needed most;

(b) what is the total quantity supplied and how many cusecs of it is commanded for irrigated area and the season in which it is supplied;

(c) what is the basis of this supply; and

(d) what further steps are being taken by Government to improve the situation?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the villages in Delhi depend upon Punjab for supply of water for irrigation purposes, but there is no question of Punjab making insufficient supplies as the distribution is made equitably regardless of state boundaries and depending on the availability of water in the river

(b) The total supply made available to villages in Delhi for irrigation purposes is 287 cusecs, out of which 255 cusecs is the perennial supply through perennial canals and 32 cusecs during Kharif period only through flood channels

(c) The water is distributed according to a rotational programme and the supply available in the river

(d) The Government of Punjab have under consideration a scheme for remodelling of Western Jumna Canal which will include areas of Delhi State also. They are also considering the feasibility of constructing Dams on the Yamuna river to ensure increased supplies to the area.

**Shri Radha Raman**: May I know whether Government is aware that the water supplied to Delhi villages is supplied in such a manner that the supply released from Punjab is less when the requirement is more and the supply is more when the requirement is less? Has the Government taken any step to ensure that the supply is regular and according to the needs?

**Shri Hathi**. As I said, the supply depends upon the supply available in the river, they get 255 cusecs perennially and 32 cusecs during the kharif period But all that depends upon the supply available in the river

**Shri Radha Raman**: Where the villages are not able to get sufficient supply Government give them some remission But may I know whether it is a fact that the remission is not paid in proper time so as to help the villager or the peasant to get over the difficulty?

**Shri Hathi**. I have no information about this

### Development of Gauhati Port

*452. **Sardar Iqbal Singh**: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state

(a) whether the F A O have strongly recommended Development of Gauhati Port,

(b) if so, main recommendations of F A O in this regard,

(c) whether the Government have considered this report, and

(d) if so, action taken by Government in this regard?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur)**: (a) and (b) The F.A O Expert has recommended development of a river port at Gauhati to provide a distribution point on the waterway from Assam to the rest of India

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Initially, it is proposed to develop Pandu Ghat which is only five miles from Gauhati

**Sardar Iqbal Singh**: May I know whether Government has considered the recommendation of the F.A O. Committee, if so, with what result?

**Shri Raj Bahadur**: The F.A O Expert Mr Vinton Burns was appointed in 1954 essentially to report to the Government regarding the development of forestry Incidentally, there were certain problems of transport also which he had to study and he has advised the development of the Port of Gauhati in that connection But our Ganga-Brahmaputra Waterways Development Board has advised that we should take up the Pandu port first for development which is only 5 miles from Gauhati

**Shri Hem Barua**: In view of the fact that the Joint Steamer companies are threatening closing down of the river services in Assam, may I know if the recommendations of the F A O to develop Gauhati as an inland port are examined in the light of this threat of closure?

**Shri Raj Bahadur**. Let me make it clear that we are keen to develop the port of Gauhati, but our keenness and the proposals in this regard have got to be considered in the light of the financial resources that we have got Keeping that in view, we have already made an offer of Rs 30 lakhs by way of loan to the Joint Steamer Companies and have also made a provision of Rs 5 lakhs per annum for conservancy of the river, particularly this route, for the next 3 years

### Howrah-bound Punjab Mail Accident

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*453. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee**:
**Shri Muhammed Elias**:
**Shri Vajpayee**:
**Shri U. L. Patil**:
**Shri Kalika Singh**:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that 6 down Punjab Mail bound for Calcutta derailed on the 13th June, 1958 between Rahimabad and Dilawarnagar stations of Northern Railway;

(b) the number of casualties and other details of the accident;

(c) whether any inquiry was held into the causes of the derailment; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof, and the action taken thereon?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). At about 12·53 hours on 13th June, 1958, while No. 6 Down Punjab Mail was running between Rahimabad and Dilawarnagar stations on the Shahjahanpur-Lucknow Section of the Northern Railway, the rear four coaches derailed at mile 219/24-21, resulting in minor injuries to five persons

The cost of damage to Railway property is estimated at Rs. 50,695.

(c) Yes, an enquiry into the accident was held by the Government Inspector of Railways

(d) His provisional finding is that the derailment was caused by the breakage of a spring hanger of a carriage Suitable action will be taken on receipt of the detailed Report of the Government Inspector, which is awaited.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know the positive steps taken to minimise railway accidents and derailments?

**Mr. Speaker:** In general?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I want to know the reason why it is on the verge of increase instead of decrease. The more we discuss it in the House the more accidents take place

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member must advise the workmen also.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** But the Government does not take them into confidence.

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** This matter has come before the House a number of times. Only the other day the hon. Railway Minister said that he would be placing before the House a comprehensive review of the railway accidents that have taken place during the last 20 years. I suppose that would be the proper time to discuss this.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister will give the solution also. I suppose he will not refer only to the accidents but will also give the steps to avoid those accidents.

**Shri Tangamani:** In answer to part (a), the hon. Deputy Minister stated that the derailment took place because of a defect in the carriage. We find that similar accidents are taking place under similar circumstances May we know whether this aspect will be discussed at the General Managers' Conference which is taking place today?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** We are going to discuss all aspects of train operation that lead to railway accidents. Breakage of mechanical parts is a fairly prominent contributing factor and the chemical analysis of such parts is undertaken In this particular case also, this has been sent to the Research Station and the report from there is awaited, on the basis of which the G.R will submit his final report.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** In the last session I asked the hon. Deputy Minister Shri Ramaswamy whether the Railway Board has set up any Special Emergency Unit to tackle with these accidents which can at once go into these accidents, examine the site and compare the previous accidents and make suggestions. Has such a Special Unit been set up?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** The hon. Member would be glad to know that we have such an organisation—a Research Cell in the Railway Board and one on each Railway. Now, we have set up safety organisations on each railway and their job is what the hon. Member would like it to be.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** It is said that the derailment was because the spring gave way. Was it an average bogie or a new one?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan**: The final report of the G.R. is awaited; he has only submitted a preliminary report. We are awaiting details.

### Sugarcane Research

*454. **Shri Anirudh Sinha**: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sugarcane Research Institutes working under the supervision of the Central Sugarcane Committee; and

(b) the manner in which the results of the research have been brought to the knowledge of the growers in the field?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas)**: (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 129.]

**Shri Anirudh Sinha**: In the statement there is no mention of the National Sugarcane Institute of Kanpur. May I know the reason why the Central Government has not brought it under their control for better co-ordination between agricultural and technical research?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: It is under central control. There is co-ordination also.

**Shri Anirudh Sinha**: There is no mention of it in the statement

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: There is, I think.

**Shri Anirudh Sinha**: In view of the poor yield and quality of our canes, what immediate steps do Government propose to take to improve them?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: It is a well known fact that our yield is poor. The Sugarcane Committee itself is taking all steps that would be necessary and there is some improvement also, as will be seen from the production figures—both of sugar as well as sugarcane.

**Shri Dasappa**: What is the total amount of sugarcane cess collected by the various States and how much of it is spent on research?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: I would require notice to say the amount collected. But the amount spent in 1957-58 was about Rs. 38 lakhs and in 1958-59 we are going to spend about Rs. 60 lakhs.

**Shri Dasappa**: Is it not a fact that practically most of the collections in certain States is taken over to the Consolidated Fund of the respective States and nothing is used for research?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: It is not quite correct; as would be seen from the figures, considerable amount is being utilised

**Shri Tyagi**: Have these institutes been able to report any substantial research which they have made during this period?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: Yes, Sir

**Shri Tyagi**: What is it?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: That cannot be answered in one or two sentences. Substantial results have been achieved by some of the various institutes.

**Shri Jadhav**: May I know whether the list here is an exhaustive list?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: There are about 28 research stations that have been given in the statement.

**Shri Jadhav**: May we know whether there is a research sub-station at Lakhmapur in Nasik district?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: Sub-stations are not included. I am sorry, Sir. Some sub-stations are included: for instance, two sub-stations, one in Melalathur and another in Kulitalai taluk in Madras State have been included.

**Mr. Speaker**: Then, why was this not included? (*Interruptions*).

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Is it run by subsidy given by the Sug search Institute?

**Shri Jadhav:** Yes.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Then, it may be an omission; I shall look into it.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** May I know, in view of the fact that one of the biggest research institutes was started in Lucknow, Badru, whether there was any appreciable increase in per acre output of sugarcane in U.P. and Bihar and if so, what is the percentage?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** There is some appreciable increase; that is why we are now in a position even to export a substantial quantity of sugar

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** Can we have comparable figures of per acre yield of sugarcane in U P and Bihar?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I want notice.

**Shri Dasappa:** Apart from the Coimbatore Research Station, which is the Central one, has any other research station brought in any new kind of cane which has become popular?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I want notice

**Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman:** May I know whether the institute is giving advice with regard to the suitability of the varieties of sugarcane, fertilizers, etc ?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Yes, Sir, it is part of the extension work.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** May I know what percentage of the cess collection is appropriated to the Consolidated Fund of India and what is the percentage spent for the improvement of sugar-cane?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The idea is to spend the entire amount, if possible but it may not be possible to spend the amount in the respective year but an attempt is made.

### Silting in the Lower Hooghly

455. { **Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:**
**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:**

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the silting up of the Lower Hooghly, Lower Damodar and Rup Narain River channels is endangering Calcutta Port;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Commissioners of the Calcutta Port Trust or from the Government of West Bengal in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that due to the heavy accumulation of silt in Hooghly bed at Calcutta, the Port authorities have recently put a ban on the berthing of steamers at the Jetties from Babughat to Taktaghat in the port of Calcutta on the Hooghly?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [*See* Appendix II, annexure No 130 ]

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** In the statement, it is said that the extent to which the deterioration of the rivers affects the Hooghly is not accurately known Is it not a fact that daily recordings of the depth of the river channel are taken and hydrographic surveys and periodic hydrographic reports are prepared on that basis? How is it then that the deterioration of the Hooghly channel which is a very important channel for Calcutta Port is not known? Has that statement been made seriously?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The deterioration is there. The first report of deterioration, if I may go into the history, was made as far back as 1895 That fact is not disputed. The extent of the deterioration is not permanent; it depends upon fresh water supply; it also depends upon the strength or the intensity of the monsoon in a particular year and also the character and conduct of the tide.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** May I know if the attention of the Government has been drawn to the report of the Lower Damodar Investigation Committee appointed by the West Bengal Government who have expressed the opinion that during eight months of the year, when there is no monsoon, the river is entirely controlled by tidal action and most of this tidal inflow goes into the Hooghly because the spill-water of the river Rup Narain is very small and most of the bed-material is suspended or deposited in Hooghly channel May I know whether these facts and also the result of the investigation carried by the Central Water Power Research Station in Poona and also the estuary model investigations carried on there have fully been taken into consideration by the port authorities and may we expect a more detailed statement on that basis?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The fact that the Hooghly channel gets fresh water supply only during the rainy season for three or four months a year is well-known irrespective of the report to which the hon Member referred. The studies at the research station in Poona are going on and we want to find out a solution. But one solution is well-known and that is that we want to have fresh water supply for the Hooghly from somewhere

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** May I know. . .

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon Member goes on giving suggestions and making almost a speech Let the question be short.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** I want to know whether investigations into tidal action have been made and are the Government in a position to lay a detailed statement on that subject?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** We are very much aware of the result of the tidal action and the continuous deterioration of this river. But the remedies are also under contemplation. However, they are not so easy. The fact that we have been knowing this matter and are daily getting reports is correct.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** In view of the gravity of the problem and in view of the necessity of finding fresh water supply from somewhere else, may we know whether the Ministry of Transport and Communications would take up Farraka dam with the Ministry of Irrigation and Power so that it may be expedited?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** There is no question of finding some water from somewhere; there is only one way and that is what the hon Member has indicated We are very much thinking of it

## पशुओं के प्रति निर्दयता निवारण

*४५६ { श्री भक्त दर्शन :
श्री रामेश्वर टांटिया :
श्री डी० चं० शर्मा :
सरदार इकबाल सिंह.

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री २७ मार्च, १९५८ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १२४८ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पशुओं के प्रति निर्दयता निवारण समिति की सिफारिशें कार्यान्वित करने के सम्बन्ध में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 131.]

**Shri Bhakt Darshan:** With reference to Part (1) of the reply, may I know if there is any time-limit fixed for the State Governments to report the implementation of that recommendation?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** We have forwarded the recommendations of this committee which are to be dealt with by State Governments for their implementation and in June 1958, they were again requested to indicate action taken. From the replies received, it is found that some State Governments have taken some action. That is to say, the State Governments of Mysore, Orissa and U.P. have stated that the recommendations of the committee are under examination in consultation with the concerned departments. The Kerala Government have accepted in principle most of the recommendations. The Madhya Pradesh Government have taken action on the recommendations contained in chapter 6 of the report. The Government of Tripura and Manipur have also expressed their agreement. The replies from the other State Governments are awaited.

**Shri Bhakt Darshan**: Besides the State Government, has the Central Government taken any definite steps about the recommendation?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: A Bill has been prepared and it would be considered in the near future by the Cabinet. Then, it would be introduced in this House

**Seth Govind Das**: Is the hon Minister aware that recently three Acts were passed in this respect by the M.P Government, U.P Government and the Bihar Government banning the slaughter of useful animals and also of cows? The Supreme Court has given a judgment. In that judgment it has been pointed out that according to the Constitution, cows calves and useful bullocks cannot be slaughtered. Are Central Government issuing any instructions to the State Governments to implement those recommendations of the Supreme Court in every State?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: I am aware of the judgment of the Supreme Court, and I understand that the U.P. Government has taken steps—it has introduced an amending Bill, I do not know whether it has been got passed. With regard to other States, I require separate notice.

**Seth Govind Das**: Are Government sending any instructions to other State Governments, besides U.P. Government, Bihar Government and Madhya Pradesh Government, to introduce legislation according to the recommendations of the Supreme Court?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: That may not be necessary; it is for the various State Governments to take action in the light of the judgment of the Supreme Court. As far as we are concerned, we have forwarded the recommendations of this committee for implementation to the various State Governments.

**Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman**: Are Government of India aware that bullocks are drawing huge weights in rubber-tyred carts and they die two or three months after they are put to use in Delhi and also in Calcutta and Madras—in the harbour areas?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: However much we may sympathise with such cases, it is very difficult of enforcement.

**Dr. Sushila Nayar**: Is the hon. Minister aware that when the officials of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals challan these bullock-cart owners for over weights the fines imposed by the magistrates are so light that they do not have any deterrent effect whatsoever?

**Shri A. M. Thomas**: We have these things also in view, and the draft Bill also provides for the setting up of a committee by the Central Government to control experimentation on animals in medical and pharmaceutical institutions.

## Construction of Bridge near Kolaghat

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157. { **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:**
**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:**

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a road bridge across the Rup Narayan near Kolaghat (South Eastern Railway) is being constructed;

(b) what is the estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether the characteristics of the river have been carefully examined with a view to maintaining its navigability as far upstream as possible;

(d) whether his attention has been drawn to the suggestion of an alternative site of the bridge with a shorter span, which would help economy as well as the policy of river control, and

(e) if so, the action taken in the matter?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 132.]

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** May I know if the views of the Road Bridges Committee of the State Flood Control Board of West Bengal, in which an officer of the Central Water and Power Commission and the Planning Officer of the Transport Ministry were present, were obtained before a final decision was taken in this regard; if so, what were their recommendations?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I cannot categorically say that the views of the two particular engineers mentioned by the hon. Member were obtained, but the Roads Wing of the Ministry of Transport do take into consideration the views of the State Government in regard to all such matters, and there is perfect co-ordination about it.

**Shri Ghosal:** In view of the fact that about 100 persons died in a launch accident near the bridge due to silting of the river, may I know if the Government is not of the opinion that after the construction of this new bridge with shorter spans there will be more silting in this river?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The engineers have taken good care to see that they select a site which prevents silting as much as possible, and that is why they have selected a site in consultation with the Central Water and Power Research Station, Poona, and the Ministry of Railways.

**Shri Biren Roy:** May I know when this bridge will be completed?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It was provided for in the Second Plan. When the tenders were invited, they pertained to a pre-stressed concrete design type of bridge, and on account of the shortage of foreign exchange we have requested the State Chief Engineer to call for fresh tenders for a different design so that the work can be taken up early

## Rural Credit Survey

**Shri Sanganna:**
**Shri Shree Narayan Das:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to the reply given to a supplementary raised on Starred Question No 1632 on the 14th April, 1958 in respect of the credit facilities and state:

(a) whether fresh examination of the whole matter under the rural credit survey has since been made; and

(b) if so, with what results?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) No fresh examination of the whole matter under the Rural Credit Survey Committee Report was considered necessary

(b) Does not arise

**Shri Sanganna:** May I know what percentage of rural credit is served by Government through co-operative societies at present?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The schemes included in the Second Five Year Plan envisage the formation of 10,400 large-size societies During the first two years we have formed 4,400 societies and in 1958-59 our target is 1,789 societies The rural credit that has been made available comes to Rs. 65 crores in 1956-57 and about Rs. 100 crores in 1957-58. When the Rural Credit Survey Report was submitted, the annual outlay on account of loans was only Rs. 22½ crores.

**Shri Jadhav:** May I know what percentage of credit is given through the medium of Government and through the medium of co-operative societies?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I have not got the break-up, but there has been a substantial improvement in the matter of availability of co-operative credit as will be seen from the figures that I have given. Our target for 1958-59 is about Rs. 140 crores.

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** May I know the number of persons who have availed of these loans?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I require notice to answer that question.

**Shri Ranga:** Is any effort being made to reorientate the Government policy in regard to the formation of these big rural credit societies in the light of the conclusions reached by the Prime Minister that it is best to provide one rural credit society for each village?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The societies that are now being formed are all, more or less, medium-size co-operative societies which take in, on an average, about five villages and less. No hard and fast rule is possible in this matter, because there are certain villages which are very small and there may not be people enough to have the necessary membership required to form such societies.

**Shri Ranga:** Can we have an assurance that wherever village societies are working well, they will not be replaced by bigger societies?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Certainly. Those societies will not be replaced.

**Shri Achar:** What will be the proportion of credit supplied through co-operative societies compared to credit supplied through other sources in different areas?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Even with regard to that there has been considerable improvement, but the percentage is even now small.

**Shri Venkatasubbaiah:** In view of the fact that the present co-operative societies are not able to meet the demands of small farmers and peasants, will Government consider the question of bringing in a comprehensive legislation so as to make these co-operative societies more useful to the small peasants and agriculturists in the country?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** With a view to take the benefit to the smaller peasants and farmers in the country, we have now issued instructions that in the matter of securities amounts may be advanced against crops that would be made available, and we are not so much insisting on property security now.

### T.B. Patients

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*459. **Shri Panigrahi:**
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**

Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for establishing Aftercare and Rehabilitation Centres for T.B. patients have been received from State Governments;

(b) whether Central Government has accorded sanction to such proposals; and

(c) whether Orissa Government has sent any such proposals to the Union Government?

**The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes.

(b) Proposals for the establishment of Aftercare and Rehabilitation Centres for T.B. patients at Delhi, Lucknow, Dhubulia (West Bengal), Poona, Amargadh (Bombay), Hyderabad and Mysore and expansion of the existing centre at Madras have been approved.

(c) No.

**Shri Panigrahi:** The Gvernment of dia have formulated a national T.B.

control programme. May I know whether any of the schemes framed under this national T.B. control programme have been extended to Orissa?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Yes, Sir; we have put up various proposals. Firstly, B.C.G. campaign is going on satisfactorily in Orissa. Secondly, we have been helping non-official centres—we have given Rs. 3 lakhs during last year and the year before that to a T.B. institution in Orissa.

Regarding the other point, I think my hon. friend perhaps refers to the National T.B. Survey which was a sample survey. I am not sure whether parts of Orissa were actually surveyed But there were representative patches of the country which were taken up for survey purposes. We shall be happy to help Orissa and the other States in all possible manner to the extent possible.

**Shri Panigrahi:** May I know how many T.B. demonstration training centres and the T.B. isolation beds and After care and Rehabilitation centres have been set up in Orissa during the second Five Year Plan period so far?

**Shri Karmarkar:** About all those items I should like to have notice With regard to this point, Orissa has not asked for it So we cannot give it.

**Dr. Sushila Nayar:** Is the hon. Minister aware that there was a proposal to set up an After-care and Rehabilitation centre in Delhi at the site of the present Kingsway Camp which was enthusiastically taken up by his predecessor, and may I know what progress, if any, has been made with regard to that scheme?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice with regard to that scheme. But the scheme that has been now finally approved of is the one to be run in association with the New Delhi T.B. Centre, so far as Delhi is concerned, at an estimated cost of Rs. 3 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 1 lakh recurring. I understand that the building plans for the centre are being scrutinised.

12 hrs.

**Mr. Speaker:** We shall now take up the Short Notice Question.

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

### Fair Price Shops in Delhi

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**S.N.Q. No. 4.**
**Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
**Shri Tangamani:**
**Shri Vajpayee:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present only 27 out of 600 Fair Price Shops are functioning in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons for the non-functioning of these shops;

(c) whether the rate in fair price shop is Rs 14 per maund as compared to Rs. 17 or Rs. 18 in the market; and

(d) if so, steps taken by Government to restart these fair price shops to ease the situation?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a)** No, Sir, there are at present no fair price shops in Delhi.

(b) to (d). As Delhi can get supplies of wheat freely from Punjab where the prices are lower than in other States, there is no need for continuing the fair price shops in Delhi at present.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether these 27 fair price shops were functioning even before a week, and may I know the reason why these shops have been closed down?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The entire thing was considered in the context of the overall food situation. The question was whether the issue of wheat from the Government stock should be continued in Delhi. It was considered in the context of the formation of the Northern Wheat Zone which was formed some time back. There was practically no offtake after inclusion of Delhi in the Zone. First, the number of shops was reduced. There was a distribution of about 9,000 maunds per week through the Delhi Grain Distributing Co-operative Society. We reduced it to a thousand maunds per week, and there was no appreciable effect because of the reduction on the market.

The House will notice that the prices prevailing in Delhi will be about Rs. 16.25 whereas the price prevailing in the neighbouring State of Uttar Pradesh had been Rs. 21 or Rs. 22. So, compared with the prices existing in 1956 and 1957, the prevailing price in Delhi cannot be said to be high, so that there is no justification for continuance of these fair price shops.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether the Food Minister is aware that the price of indigenous wheat and atta is going up and the price of atta flour has gone up from Rs. 44 per bag to Rs. 50, instead of Rs. 36.50 which was the price in Uttar Pradesh, and, if so, what steps have been taken?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The figures according to the latest bulletin indicate that in Delhi the price is only Rs. 16·25—the price of wheat, I mean—so that the price cannot be said to be high. For atta, of course, it depends on the price of wheat. There has been some slight increase but not to any substantial quantity.

**Shri Tangamani:** The question was definite The price of atta per bag of 2½ maunds is Rs. 44, and that the price of wheat is about Rs. 44. That is the prevailing market price.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The prevailing market price is about Rs. 43; compared with the price existing in the neighbouring State, it cannot be said to be high.

**Shri Vajpayee:** May I know if it is not a fact that most of the wheat shops were forced to close down as they refused to take their quota from the Government godowns?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Yes; that also happened.

**Shri Vajpayee:** Am I to understand that the shops have been closed because they refused to have the quota or because the Government thinks there is no need for shops?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The whole question, as I said, was considered in the context of the formation of the wheat zone. At first, Delhi was not included in the Northern zone whereas Punjab and Himachal Pradesh were included. Later on Delhi was also included. The prevailing price of wheat in Punjab will be about Rs 14 to Rs. 16 A little more has to be paid for wheat made available in Delhi. Thus, we will be having an all-India view of these things. When we have regard to the price prevailing in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the price that we have to pay in Delhi, where the purchasing power is admittedly higher, cannot be said to be high.

**Mr. Speaker:** I shall proceed to the next item

**Shri Tangamani:** There is a purpose for this question

**Mr. Speaker:** There is a purpose because we are in the headquarters! All round the prices are high. There is no meaning in asking here. I have allowed a sufficient number of question on this.

**Shri Prabahat Kar:** The prices were low. Because of the Government's policy the prices are going up.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. There is a limit to questions. I have allowed a number of questions. I have allowed a sufficient number of questions on this subject.

**Shri Tangamani:** I shall make one point clear. Out of the 600 fair price shops, only 27 were....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I have allowed a number of questions on this matter. The hon. Minister has said that with the formation of the northern zone this whole matter has been looked into and that compared to the corresponding prices there in Uttar Pradesh the prices here are not high.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे पर रेलवे लाइन का सर्वेक्षण

*४३७. श्री श्रीनारायण दास : क्या रेलवे मंत्री ८ मई, १९५८ के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ३५१५ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे पर स्थित दरभंगा और मुजफ्फरपुर स्टेशनों को मिलाने वाली प्रस्तावित रेलवे लाइन के सर्वेक्षण के बारे में इस बीच क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

**रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री स० वें० रामस्वामी):** इस लाइन के इंजीनियरिंग और यातायात (traffic) दोनों सर्वे पूरे हो चुके हैं । उनकी रिपोर्टें अभी मिली हैं और रेलवे बोर्ड उन पर विचार कर रहा है ।

### Scooter Service

*438. **Shri Ram Krishan:**
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scooter drivers in Delhi refuse to carry passengers on certain routes; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes

(b) On receipt of specific complaints from passengers, the State Transport Authority takes action against the drivers concerned by suspending their authorisation to drive scooter rickshaws.

### Damage to I.A.C. Aircraft by Storm

*446. **Shri Damani:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 5 aircrafts belonging to Indian Airlines Corporation parked at Safdarjang Airport were damaged during a storm recently;

(b) if so, what was the extent of damage;

(c) whether any enquiry has been held into the cause of the damage; and

(d) if so, what are the findings of this enquiry?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) Yes, Sir. Six aircraft of the I.A.C. parked outside a hangar at Safdarjang airport were damaged during the storm on the 29th May, 1958.

(b) The damage was mostly superficial and was estimated at Rs. 65,000 representing the cost of repairs.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) The findings were that damage was caused.—

(i) from aluminium metal sheets which were stored along with building materials for the construction of a new hangar, flying off with the storm and striking against the aircraft; and

(ii) by one of the aircraft swinging off its mooring and striking other aircraft parked alongside

### Poultry and Fish Farming in N.E.S. Blocks

*447. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Community Development** be pleased to state:

(a) how far has poultry and fish farming progressed in Community Development Blocks and National Extension Blocks; and

(b) what are the approximate numbers of such blocks wherein (i) Poultry farming and (ii) fish farming have been successfully introduced?

**The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey):** (a) While

Poultry farming has made sufficient headway and is becoming increasingly popular, the fisheries programme has yet to make its impact felt in the development Blocks.

(b) This information is not available. However, 5.25 lakhs pedigree birds were distributed in the various blocks uptil March, 1958.

### देवली बांध, महरौली, दिल्ली का सर्वेक्षण

*४४९. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर** : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देवली बांध महरौली का सर्वेक्षण कार्य पूरा हो चुका है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस बांध पर कितना व्यय होने का अनुमान है ;

(ग) इसके कब तक पूरा हो जाने की आशा है ; और

(घ) इसके पूरे हो जाने पर कितनी भूमि की सिंचाई की जा सकेगी ?

**खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री अजित प्रसाद जैन)** : (क) सर्वे का काम अभी शुरू नहीं किया गया है । ३ महीने के बाद इसके शुरू करने की उम्मीद है ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही उत्पन्न नहीं होता ।

(ग) सर्वे का काम इस वित्त वर्ष के अन्त तक पूरा हो जाने की आशा है ।

(घ) वह क्षेत्र, जिसको इससे लाभ होगा, केवल सर्वे का काम पूरा होने के बाद ही जाना जा सकता है ।

### Shipping Development Fund

*450. **Shri Muhammed Elias:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to supplementary raised on Starred Question No 1142 on the 16th December, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the operation of Shipping Development Fund has been started; and

(b) if so, how it is being operated?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Not yet

(b) Does not arise.

### Food Situation in West Bengal

*451. **Shri Subiman Ghose:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item regarding two starvation deaths at Dolankuti in Mathabhanga Sub-Division, Cooch-Behar which had appeared in the Hindustan Standard (Calcutta Edition) dated the 22nd May, 1958,

(b) whether it is a fact that on the 25th May, 1958 or near about that time the price of coarse rice in Cooch-Behar was Rs 30 per maund; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take, to tackle the situation there?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Yes, Sir. It is understood that an enquiry was made by the State Government and it was found that there was no case of starvation death in village Dolangarkutti, there is no village named Dolankuti as mentioned in the news item

(b) No, Sir. The highest retail price in Cooch-Behar district on that date was Rs 28.90 per maund.

(c) The State Government are distributing large quantities of foodgrains through modified ration shops at prescribed prices. In West Bengal about 40 to 45 thousand tons of rice and about 60 thousand tons of wheat are being distributed monthly. Gratuitous relief is being provided and test relief works are being undertaken whenever and wherever found necessary.

### Railway Line between Hatia and Muri

***460. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Ministry of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether plan for laying broad-gauge railway line between Hatia and Muri (Ranchi) has been finalized; and

(b) when the construction work of that line is likely to begin?

***The Deputy Minister of Railways* (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) Yes Sir, the proposals have reached the stage of finality.

(b) The construction of Muri-Ranchi B. G. line (40 miles) has been started in June, 1958. Preliminary survey for its further extension upto Tatia has since been carried out.

### Cancellation of Licences of Merchants of Kharagpur

***461. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain merchants are being ousted from the Kharagpur Railway Colony by their licences being cancelled, causing considerable dissatisfaction amongst the commercial class there, who have been doing business for a long time; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reason for the cancellation of the licenses is violation of the terms of agreement such as non-payment of monthly occupation fees, encroachment on railway land and construction of structures not in accordance with approved plans.

### Bridges on National Highways (Mysore State)

***462. Shri Joachim Alva:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) how many bridges have been already constructed in South Kanara District (Mysore State) on national highways;

(b) how many bridges are yet to be constructed in North Kanara District (Mysore State) on national highways;

(c) number of tenders which have been called for constructing the bridges in North Kanara district; and

(d) what is the cause for delay in regard to the construction of the bridges?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** A short stretch of the National Highways passes through North Kanara District but there are hardly any important bridge works thereon The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to bridges on the West Coast Road which is not a National Highway The required information is:

(a) Two.

(b) Four, out of which work is in hand on two.

(c) One

(d) We have taken up the preliminary work in respect of all the bridges, but delay in starting work has been caused in the case of some bridges because of (1) difficulties in selection of site and (2) Foreign exchange shortage.

### Janki Sugar Mills

***463. Shri Tyagi:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) what was the percentage recovery in the Janki Sugar Mills, Doiwala (Dehra Dun) during the crushing season 1957-58;

(b) how does the above figure compare with the percentage recovery obtained in mills in Tarai area of Nainital where the price cut of annas -/2/- per maund of sugarcane had been restored;

(c) whether the price cut of 1955-56 was ordered because of the bad quality of sugarcane or on account of defective machinery;

(d) whether Government have effected any improvements in (i) the plant and (ii) the variety of sugarcane in the District of Dehra Dun since they have taken over control of the mill; and

(e) if so, what amounts have been spent on these items?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shi A. P. Jain)**: (a) 10·18.

(b) The recovery of the other factories mentioned was as under:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Kashipu | 9·91 |
| Bareilly | 9·66 |
| Baheri | 9·91 |
| Raza | 10·39 |
| Buland | 10·19 |

(c) The price cut was allowed on ccount of poor quality of cane.

(d) Yes, Sir, both in the plant and he quality of cane received at the actory.

(e) A sum of Rs. 1,76,000 has been spent on additions of machinery to the plant, and Rs. 84,000 on the improvement of sugarcane.

### Food Scarcity in Eastern U.P.

*464. **Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:**
**Shri Bishwanath Roy:**
**Shi S. M. Banerjee:**

Will the **Minister of Food and Agri-lture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been rawn to the acute food scarcity conlitions in **Eastern U.P.** as reported by three **Members of Parliament** who recently toured the area; and

(b) what steps the Government of India propose to take to mitigate the difficulties of the people in this area?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain)**: (a) Yes, Sir. there have been reports in the Press about the visit of three M.Ps. to the Eastern District of U.P. and the statements made by them.

(b) The Government of India have been making large quantities of foodgrains available to Uttar **Pradesh** for distribution in the Eastern Districts of the State. This distribution has been intensified recently, and as many as 2,025 fair price shops are now functioning in the Eastern Districts. Export of rice and paddy from the Eastern Districts of U.P. has been banned, and that of wheat from the entire State had already been prohibited. In addition to the normal assistance under Grow More Food Schemes, a loan of Rs. 40 lakhs was sanctioned for minor irrigation works in the Eastern Districts of U.P., in 1957-58, and a total Central assistance of Rs. 281·36 lakhs for the entire State have now been agreed to for 1958-59 under the Grow More Food scheme.

### Air Accident

*465. **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
**Shri Hem Barua:**

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an I.A.C. Dakota freighter crashed on the afternoon of the 9th July, 1958 near Bagbari village in Narayanganj Sub-Division of East Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons of the accident?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil)**: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The accident is under the investigation of the Pakistan authorities.

### Tour of Foreign Countries

*466. **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Food Ministry official team has gone on a tour of U.S. and Japan for the purpose of studying storage practices in those countries; and

(b) if so, the expenditure involved on their tour?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) and (b). At the invitation of certain Associations of Wheat growers in U.S.A. a team consisting of three officials of the Food Department and one non-official proceeded on 9-7-58 to U.S.A (and Japan *en route*) for studying methods of wheat procurement, wheat processing etc and returned to India on 20-8-58 The expenses were borne by the U.S. Authorities. The Government sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 1,000 only to meet the expenses on account of entertainment and contingencies

### Unloading of Food Stuffs

*467 **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of the Bombay Port Trust have not agreed to give priority for unloading of food stuffs in Bombay Port; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request for according priority to foodships was not based on any actual difficulties met but only on apprehensions. Should however a situation arise warranting the grant of priority to foodships, the Bombay Port Trust have agreed to reconsider their decision.

### Scarcity Areas in U.P.

*468. **Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) what concrete steps the Central Government have taken through the State Governments for rendering help to the people of scarcity areas in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) whether the State Government have submitted any proposal to the Central Government for meeting the difficult food situation in the State?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) and (b). Proposals have been received from the State Government from time to time and substantial quantities of foodgrains have been supplied from Central Stocks for distribution in the State through fair price shops. Export of rice and paddy from the Eastern Districts of U.P and that of wheat from the whole State have been banned In addition to the normal assistance under Grow More Food Schemes, a loan of Rs 40 lakhs was sanctioned in 1957-58 for minor irrigation works in the Eastern Districts of U.P. A total Central assistance of Rs. 281·36 lakhs has been agreed to for 1958-59 under the Grow-More Food Schemes.

### Railway over-bridge at Manmad

*469. **Shri Jadhav:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 599 on the 28th February, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the remodelled plan for the construction of Railway over-bridge at Manmad (Central Railway) has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bombay State Government have asked for any grant for the construction of the Railway over-bridge; and

(d) if so, when Government propose to sanction the grant.

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy)**: (a) No, Sir. The detailed drawings which were sent by the Central Railway to the Government of Bombay on 27-8-57, were returned to the Railway in February, 1958 for modification of the design. The revised design and estimates are under preparation by the Railway.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### Tourist Traffic to Kulu and Kangra Valleys

*470. **Shri Hem Raj**: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the important suggestions made by the Prime Minister after his recent holiday in Manali for the improvement of the Tourist Traffic to Kulu and Kangra valleys and communications there; and

(b) the steps that Government propose to take to implement them?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur)**: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 133.]

### Santa Cruz Airport

*471. **Shri Assar**: Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently there was leakage in the newly built terminal building at Santa Cruz Aerodrome;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some slabs of the building fell down;

(c) whether it is a fact that during heavy rain the passengers waiting in the building were inconvenienced;

(d) whether any enquiry has been made into the faulty construction of the building; and

(e) if so, with what result?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil)**: (a) Yes, Sir. Slight drippings through the expansion and contraction joints took place during the heavy monsoon showers in the month of June, 1958. These joints had been water-proofed by a Firm under a five years guarantee; and immediately the leaks were noticed, the Firm sealed these joints again and made them water-tight.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No enquiry was made as the leaks were insignificant and no damage was done or is anticipated.

(e) Does not arise.

### Retrenchment of D.V.C. Personnel

*472. **Shri Ramam**:
**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri**:
**Shri S. M. Banerjee**:
**Shri Sarju Pandey**:
**Shri Tangamani**:
**Shri Panigrahi**:
**Shri Prabhat Kar**:

Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power be pleased to state**:

(a) whether any persons have been retrenched at Panchet by the D.V.C. authorities during July, 1958;

(b) if so, how many;

(c) whether alternative employments have been found for them;

(d) if so, for how many; and

(e) if not, what steps do Government propose to take to minimise the hardships of these retrenched workers?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi)**: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 340.

(c) Yes, for some of them.

(d) and (e). Two hundred and ten have been selected for appointment in other undertakings and are at present awaiting appointment orders, while two have already been provided with alternative employment. All-out efforts are being made to provide alternative employment for the remaining retrenched personnel as quickly as possible.

### Assam Line of N.E.F. Railway

*473. **Shri Hem Barua:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state

(a) whether any steps have so far been taken to replace the over-aged wagons operating on the Assam line of the N.E.F. Railway; and

(b) if so, with what result?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 134.]

### Over-bridge in Jangpura

*474. **Shri Siddananjappa:**
**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:**
**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:**

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state

(a) whether the over-bridge in Jangpura on the Delhi-Mathura road has been damaged by the unprecedented rains in Delhi on the 20th July and 21st July, 1958;

(b) if so, the extent and nature of the damage;

(c) the reasons for the damage of such magnitude;

(d) the sum required to set it right; and

(e) whether Government have ordered an enquiry into the matter?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). No, but the road surface over the approach to the Jungpura bridge subsided by about 1·5 feet in a length of 100 feet in one carriage lane, and one of the side slopes of the embankment was also scoured out in a length of about 95 feet.

(c) and (e) The Works, Housing and Supply Ministry have appointed a special investigation Officer and further information will be available when his investigations are over.

(d) The contractors have carried out the repairs at their own cost amounting to about Rs 5,000.

### Porterage Rates

*475. **Shri Rajendra Singh:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the increase in distance from the steamer jetty to the place where the passengers take to train or other conveyances, the porterage rates are increased; and

(b) if so, whether the same practice has been applied at Palezaghat this time?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Presumably the reference is to the shifting of the ghat from the permanent Mehendrughat site to Gandhighat in November, 1957. Porterage charges were enhanced from 4 annas to 5 annas per trip at this ghat, both on account of the longer distance and also the increase in the height of the bank from the river level.

(b) Enhancement of porterage charges at Palezaghat has not been considered necessary, as the bank there is not high, and taking the height of the bank and the lead into consideration, the normal porterage charge, is considered reasonable.

### Seed Multiplication Farms

*476. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that target for the establishment of seed farms under the scheme for the multiplication and distribution of improved seeds has not been achieved in the first two years of the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) The targets for the first two years of the 2nd Five Year Plan were not achieved in full. In 1956-57, 343 seed farms were established against a target of 485 and in 1957-58, 1232 seed farms were established against a target of 1416. This works out to a percentage of 71 and 87 respectively.

(b) The reasons were mainly non-availability of suitable land, high cost of land difficulties in acquisition of land. The re-organisation of States in 1956 also retarded the implementation of programme in 1956-57

### Erosion of Southern Shore of Dhanushkodi

*477. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1470 on the 5th April, 1958 and state:

(a) the nature of measures taken for the protection of the Southern shore of Dhanushkodi from further erosion; and

(b) the amount spent on these measures so far?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) The protective measures taken and being taken are:—

(i) provision in 1955 of three groynes built up of casurina boles;

(ii) raising of a part of the shore by heaping of coal ashes and sand and laying of boulder sausages;

(iii) extensive planting of quick-growing trees in the colony and along the shore which is now to be supplemented by coconut seedlings—plantations.

(b) The total amount spent so far on these measures in about Rs. 23,500.

### Scarcity of drinking water in Delhi

*478. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
**Shri Mohan Swarup:**
**Shri Naval Prabhakar:**
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 709 on the 7th March, 1958 and state:

(a) what is the anticipated demand for drinking water in Delhi during the next 20 years; and

(b) whether any long range plan has been considered?

**The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) It is anticipated that the demand of water would increase to about 150 million gallons per day during the next 20 years.

(b) A Committee of Technical Experts has been appointed to consider this question.

### Survey of T.B. in the Country

479. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
**Shri Ram Krishan:**
**Shri Hem Barua:**

Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tentative results of the national pulmonary tuberculosis survey made by the Indian Council of Medical Research have shown that tuberculosis has penetrated villages also;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the data collected during the survey indicates that two per cent. of the country's population is affected by the disease;

(c) if so, the brief details of the survey and its results; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to check its spread further?

**The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar)**: (a) and (b). The preliminary report of the survey made upto June, 1956, showed that Tuberculosis was prevalent in villages, small towns and cities and that two per cent. of the persons in the areas covered in the report was affected by the disease.

(c) and (d). A statement containing the required information is placed on the table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 135.]

### Late arrival of G.T. Express

***480. Shri Radha Raman**: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Grand Trunk Express is generally late by 2 to 4 hours every day;

(b) if so, what are its causes; and

(c) the steps Government propose to remedy this?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan)**: (a) No, but the performance of these trains of late has not been satisfactory.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 136]

### दिल्ली के महरौली क्षेत्र में बांध

***४८१. श्री नवल प्रभाकर** : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत सेवक समाज ने अपने एक ज्ञापन द्वारा दिल्ली महरौली क्षेत्र के लिये कई स्थानों पर बांध बनाने की योजना भेजी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो योजना का ब्योरा क्या है ; और

(ग) इस योजना से कितने एकड़ भूमि सींची जायेगी ?

**खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री अ० प्र० जैन)** : (क) भारत सेवक समाज से कोई भी ज्ञापन प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं होता ।

### Fire in Bombay Docks

***482. { Sardar Iqbal Snigh:**
**Shri Ram Krishan:**

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a great fire in Bombay Docks on the 11th May, 1958;

(b) if so, the total loss suffered?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur)**: (a) There was a fire in the Victoria Dock on the 11th May; and

(c) Rs. 24 lakhs

### Cancellation of night train service on Dronachallam-Secunderabad Section

***483. Shri D C. Sharma**: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the night train service on the Dronachallam-Secundesabad metre gauge section of the Central Railway has been cancelled recently; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this cancellation?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan)**: (a) Yes, Sir Night running of passenger trains has been suspended with effect from 20-6-58 for the duration of the Monsoon.

(b) As the Andhra State Government not having been able to vouchsafe the safety of their Railway affecting irrigation tanks, during the monsoons the running of passenger trains has been concentrated in daylight hours as a precautionary measure. Goods trains, however, run throughout the day and the night.

### "Summary Powers" for General Managers

***484. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether General Managers of all Zonal Railways have recently been given "Summary Powers" to remove from service the Railway employees held responsible in train safety cases; and

(b) in how many cases have these "Summary Powers" so far been exercised by the General Managers where train accident have occurred?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Under the proviso to para 1708 of the Indian Railway Establishment Code, General Managers have for long had summary powers to terminate the services of non-gazetted Railway servants in accordance with their service agreements without assigning any reason

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

### Delhi School Buses

***485.** **Shri Vajpayee:**
**Shri Vasudevan Nair:**
**Shri Warior:**
**Shri Wodeyar:**

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2111 on the 9th May, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the Delhi School buses carrying students to their schools have since been inspected;

(b) if so, the number of buses inspected;

(c) the number of buses that were found defective; and

(d) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to provide alternative means of transport to the students?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) to (c). 141 school buses have been inspected so far. Out of these 51 have been found defective.

(d) The Delhi Transport Undertaking have agreed to provide buses for transport of school children at the rate of Rs. 1·25 per mile from depot to depot provided the schools open and close at non-peak hours

### Working and retiring room for Journalists at Airports

***486. Shri Joachim Alva:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state.

(a) whether any room for working and retiring, fitted with telephone and bath room, is reserved for journalists working round the clock at airports in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta Madras and other principal cities, and

(b) the arrangements made at the newly built airport at Bombay?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to provide a separate room, fitted with a telephone, in the new terminal building at Santa Cruz Airport, for the use of journalists.

### Procurement of Rice

*487. **Shri Ramam:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are facing any difficulty in the matter of procurement of rice in any State; and

(b) if so, the names of the States and the nature of the difficulties?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain):** (a) and (b). The Government of India are procuring rice only in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Punjab at present. The usual difficulties are being experienced in the matter of procurement, as for instance, attempts at smuggling, stocks of rice and reluctance on the part of certain Stockists to sell their stocks to Government in the expectation of securing a higher price for their goods in areas where the prevailing market rates are much higher than the maximum controlled prices in the procurement areas.

### Export of Rice from Orissa to Bihar

*488. **Shri Panigrahi:**
**Shri Mahanty:**
**Shri P. G. Deb:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether 25,000 tons of rice offered by the Government of Orissa to the Central Government has been diverted to Bihar; and

(b) whether the State Government has agreed to this export of rice from Orissa?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

### Loss of Wagon Fittings in Collieries

*489. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the **Minister of Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eastern Railway Administration has issued a circular letter in March, 1957 to various colliery associations laying down a procedure to arrest loss of wagon fittings said to originate in colliery sidings;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the colliery associations have complained that the procedure was not completely followed and yet debits were raised against them when the loss of fittings was mainly due to careless maintenance of wagons; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No 137.]

### Strike by Auto Rickshaw drivers in Delhi.

*490. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
**Shri Naushir Bharucha:**
**Shri Vajpayee:**
**Shri U L. Patil:**

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether auto-rickshaw drivers in Delhi went on a strike recently;

(b) if so, what were their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to conciliate them.

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes

(b) and (c) A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 138.]

### Milk Supply Scheme for Delhi

*491. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government scheme to improve the milk supply in Delhi has been dropped and some other new scheme submitted by the Research Division of the Indian Co-operative Union is being adopted;

(b) what is the nature of the scheme submitted by the Union; and

(c) what progress has been made by the Government scheme based on assistance from the Government of New Zealand?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain)**: (a) No.

(b) The Union has not submitted any scheme.

(c) The scheme is being implemented actively. The buildings for the Central Dairy near the Patel Nagar Railway Station are under construction Locations for 13 centres for milk collection and chilling have been made. In one, *viz.*, at Alipore, the actual construction is proceeding. The land in respect of 5 centres has been acquired and construction is about to be taken up. In the remaining 7 centres, land is being acquired for construction.

Dairy equipment has been ordered and deliveries are expected some time next year. Orders for equipment for milk collection and chilling centres will be placed shortly

### Waiting Rooms for Third Class Women Passengers

*492. { **Shri Radha Raman:**
**Shri S. M. Banerjee:**

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under contemplation any scheme for waiting rooms on Indian Railways for 3rd Class women passengers;

(b) if so, the nature thereof; and

(c) whether the same facilities will be made available to male passengers?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan)**: (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 139.]

### Increase in Air Fares

*493. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state the traffic trend of the Indian Airlines Corporation since the recent increase in the plane fares?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** As the revised fares came into force on the 15th June, 1958, it is too early to make an assessment as to their effect on traffic trend of the Indian Airlines Corporation.

### Agronomic Experiments

*494 **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 893 on the 24th August, 1956 and state:

(a) whether the scheme for the establishment of four research-cum-testing centres for bullocks has been finalised;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme; and

(c) names of the places where these centres have been opened or are proposed to be opened?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain)**: (a) Yes

(b) The object of the Centres is:

(i) to test agricultural implements and machines available and in use in the different regions under actual field conditions;

(ii) to obtain or to develop suitable implements and machines for various agricultural operations for which no implements exist at present in the region and to test them for regional conditions and requirements;

(iii) to modify or improve the agricultural implements and machines tested in the centre; and

(iv) to design and develop simple, labour-saving, cheap and efficient agricultural implements and machines for the various regions.

(c) 1. I.A.R.I. New Delhi.

2 Agri. College, Coimbatore (Madras).

3 Poona (Bombay).

4. A suitable place to be selected in West Bengal

### Indian Airlines Corporation

*495. **Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss incurred by the Indian Airlines Corporation during 1957-58 in operating air services between Bhopal, Indore and Gwalior;

(b) the reasosn thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make good the loss incurred so far?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) The Delhi|Agra Gwalior Bhopal Indore|Aurangabad|Bombay service was discontinued with effect from 14th April, 1957. The Losses incurred by the Indian Airlines Corporation on this service during 1956-57 were Rs. 18.60 lakhs.

(b) Poor traffic, chiefly.

(c) The question of the Corporation taking steps to make good the loss incurred on any particular sector does not arise.

### Reservation of Third Class Sleeping Berths

*496. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for reservation of a 3rd Class sleeping berth the charge now is Rs. 3·45 plus 25 nP. for sitting accommodation as against Rs. 3 only charged previously;

(b) if so, since when the increase has been effected: and

(c) whether sitting accommodation charges have been introduced for other classes also?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). Prior to 15th September, 1957, only a surcharge of Rs. 3 was levied for third class sleeping accommodation. With effect from 15th September, 1957 passenger fares tax at 15 per cent. or 10 per cent. as the case may be, depending on the length of the journey, is leviable on this surcharge. In addition, with effect from 1st April, 1958 a reservation charge of 25 nP. has been introduced for reservation in advance of a berth by night and a seat during the day.

(c) Similar reservation charges are already in force for other classes of accommodation

### Over-crowding in Passenger Trains

790. **Shri Anirudh Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the steps taken to relieve overcrowding in passenger trains in the former O.T.R. section of the North-Eastern Railway in North Bihar?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): A statement furnishing the information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 140.]**

### Goods Train Derailment near Bhatinda

**791. Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on Friday the 4th July, 1958, a goods train from Rewari on the metre gauge section of the Northern Railway met with a serious accident at Bhatinda and was derailed due to improper setting of points; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken against the persons held responsible for the derailment?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan)**: (a) On 4th July, 1958 at about 11·15 hrs. while No. B 64 Down Goods train was being piloted into Bhatinda station yard, its engine and 4 wagons got derailed and two wagons and one auxiliary tank capsized.

(b) The Cabin man and the Pilot Jemadar held responsible for the accident have been suspended from duty and departmental action is being progressed against them.

### इटावा स्टेशन पर पोरटरों की हड़ताल

**७९२. श्री भजन सिह भदौरिया :** क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर रेलवे के इटावा स्टेशन के पोर्टर्स ने १० जुलाई, १९५८ से हड़ताल की थी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण थे ; और

(ग) क्या रेलवे विभाग ने उन कारणों को दूर करने का कोई प्रयत्न किया था ?

**रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां) :** (क) जी हां । १०–७–५८ को इटावा के लाइसेंसदार भारिकों (Porters) ने सुबह १० बजे काम बन्द कर दिया था, लेकिन दिन में १ बजे फिर वे काम पर आ गये ।

(ख) रेलवे पुलिस के सब–इंस्पेक्टर एक भारिक के खिलाफ चार्जशीट जारी करना चाहतें थे । इस सिलसिले में पुलिस की तरफ से जो कार्यवाई की गई उसकी वजह से भारिकों न काम बन्द कर दिया !

(ग) आगरा डिवीजन के पुलिस सर्किल इंस्पेक्टर मामले की जाच कर रहे हे । पुलिस अधिकारियों की रिपोर्ट मिलने पर विचार किया जायेगा कि इस मामले पर आगे क्या कार्यवाई की जाये ।

### Sugar Mills in Bombay State

**793. { Shri Jadhav:**
**Shri Pangarkar:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the sugarcane crushing capacity of the various sugar mills in Bombay State;

(b) quantity of cane crushed during 1957-58 crushing season in the above factories;

(c) how much cane was supplied to the above factories by the cane-supplying agriculturists;

(d) how many sugar factories took bonds from the agriculturists in order to guarantee the supply of cane in future; and

(e) how many factories took deposits at the time of guarantee for the supply of cane in future?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) 20,450 tons of cane per day.

(b) 28.57 lakh tons.

(c) 17.72 lakh tons.

(d) 16 including 9 co-operative factories.

(e) 3.

### Central Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun

**794. Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees (Class I to Class IV) working in the Central Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun; and

(b) the number of employees who belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in each cadre?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a)

| | |
|---|---|
| Class I | 41 |
| Class II | 45 |
| Class III | 477 |
| Class IV | 508 |

(b)

| | Scheduled Castes. | Scheduled Tribes. |
|---|---|---|
| Class I | Nil | Nil |
| Class II | Nil | Nil |
| Class III | 26 | Nil |
| Class IV | 101 | Nil |

### Rural Water Supply Schemes in Bombay State

**795. Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural water supply schemes received by Government from the Bombay Government for 1958-59; and

(b) the assistance proposed to be given by Government for 1958-59?

**The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Fifty one schemes.

(b) A sum of Rupees fifty lakhs has been allotted for 1958-59. Actual release of funds will, however, be to the extent of 50 per cent. of the expenditure incurred by the State Government on the approved rural water supply and sanitation schemes subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs.

### Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Posts and Telegraphs Department

**796. Shri Siddiah:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3208 on the 5th May, 1958 regarding Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Posts and Telegraphs Department and state:

(a) whether the required information has been collected; and

(b) if so, when it will be laid on the Table?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) and (b). The information is still being collected and is expected to be laid on the Table of the Sabha very shortly.

### Post Office Bhubaneswar

**797. Shri B. C. Mullick:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3631 on the 8th May, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the question of acquiring land at Bhubaneswar for the purpose of construction of buildings for the office of the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Orissa and quarters for the staff has been finalised;

(b) whether the final decision has been taken on the question of shifting the office to Bhubaneswar; and

(c) if so, the further progress made so far in this regard?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) The proposal for acquisition of land at Bhubaneswar for construction of building for the office of the

Director, Posts and Telegraphs, Orissa and staff quarters is in the process of sanction.

(b) Yes.

(c) This is covered by reply to part (a).

### West Coast Road

**798. Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) total amount sanctioned by the Central Government for construction of West Coast Road (Bombay-Goa Road);

(b) the amount paid till 31st July, 1958;

(c) the mode of payment whether paid by instalments or lump sum; and

(d) if by instalments, amount of yearly instalment?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) The West Coast Road passes through the States of Bombay, Mysore and Kerala. It is presumed the information asked for relates to portion lying in Bombay State only. Estimates totalling Rs. 72 lakhs have so far been sanctioned.

| (b) and (d). | Rs. lakhs. |
|---|---|
| 1951-52 to 1955-56. | 1.33 |
| 1956-57. | 23.07 |
| 1957-58. | 18.52 |
| 1958-59 (Upto 31st July 1958) | 11.19 |
| TOTAL | 54.11 |

(c) By yearly instalments.

### Gaon Sabha *for* Backward Areas

**799. Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of **Community Development** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been drawn by the Centre for giving financial assistance to Gaon Sabhas for Backward Areas as recommended by the Central Council for Local Self Government;

(b) if so, the important features of such a scheme?

**The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Vegetable Oils

**800. Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technical Research Sub-Committee to examine new schemes, grant extension to current schemes and formulate technical programmes for vegetable oils research in India has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Technical Sub-Committee met on the 30th and 31st December, 1957, and decided that the following six Institutes would participate in the programme of Technological Research on Vegetable Oils during the Second Five Year Plan period:—

1. Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad.
2. National Chemical Laboratory, Poona.
3. Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore.
4. Harcourt Butler Technological Research Institute, Kanpur.
5. Oil Technological Institute, Anantapur.
6. Department of Chemical Technology, Bombay University, Bombay.

On receipt of the detailed schemes from the above six institutes the *ad hoc* Committee met on the 12th July, 1958 and after examining these schemes in detail, recommended that six schemes involving an expenditure of Rs. 8,21,308 may be implemented during the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan.

### Construction of Goods Shed at Charkhi-Dadri Station

801. { **Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
**Shri Ram Krishan:**

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 966 on the 7th March, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the actual work of construction of goods shed at Charkhi-Dadri has been started; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) No. The work will, however, be taken up shortly and is expected to be completed during the current year.

(b) An existing shed at Hissar was to be dismantled and one portion re-erected at Hansi and the other portion at Charkhi-Dadri. The work at Hansi has been completed and dismantling of the remaining portion of the shed at Hissar for re-erection at Charkhi-Dadri will now be taken up.

### Opening of Station between Charkhi-Dadri and Manheru

**802. Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received an application from the villagers of Fatehgarh in District Mohindergarh (Punjab) to open a new station between Charkhi-Dadri and Manheru on Rewari Bhatinda route of metre-gauge section of Northern Railway; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) Yes, a representation was received on 17th April, 1958.

(b) The proposal for providing a flag station between Charkhi-Dadri and Manheru railway stations on the Northern Railway was investigated but was found to be not justified.

Consideration is now being given to see if a train halt at the site would be justified.

### *Gaushalas* in Punjab

803. { **Shri Ram Krishan:**
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the number of *Gaushalas* sanctioned by the Government of India for the state of Punjab during 1957-58 for augmenting the supply of milk in urban areas and breeding better types of cattle under *Gaushala* Development Scheme?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** Four.

### Bridge at Leval Crossing in Ambala

**804. Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken so far to build an over-head bridge at the level crossing in Ambala on G.T. Road?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** The over-bridge at Ambala stands fourth in the list of the priorities for construction of six over-bridges over the G.T. Road, as given by the Punjab Government. The drawings and estimate for this over-bridge are under preparation and will be submitted to the Punjab Government for their acceptance.

### Punjab Road Development Scheme

**805. { Shri Ram Krishan:**
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grant has been given to the Government of Punjab under the Road Development Scheme for the year 1958-59 and

(b) if so, to what extent?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 38.07 lakhs.

### Khandwa Hingoli Rail Link

**806. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers employed in the construction of Khandwa-Hingoli rail link;

(b) how many of them have put in more than three years' service; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken for their confirmation?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):**

| | Permanent | Temporary |
|---|---|---|
| (a) (i) Class III | 111 | 354 |
| (ii) Class IV | 3 | 56 |
| Total | 114 | 410 |
| Casual labour on daily rates of pay | | 3,353 |
| (b) (i) Class III Temporary | | 236 |
| (ii) Class IV Temporary | | 48 |
| Total | | 284 |

(c) Yes, except in the case of casual labour who are not entitled to absorption in a permanent job automatically but such of them who apply for any posts advertised and fulfil the conditions are considered for recruitment by a Selection Board in regular vacancies.

### State Warehousing Corporation in Punjab

**807. { Shri D. C. Sharma:**
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
**Shri Ram Krishan:**

**Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the progress made in regard to setting up of the State Warehousing Corporation in Punjab?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** A State Warehousing Corporation has been set up in Punjab State with Headquarters at Jullundur with effect from 2nd January, 1958.

The State Government and the Central Warehousing Corporation have nominated five directors each on the State Warehousing Corporation of Punjab as required under sub-sections (1)(a) and (b) of Section 30 of the Agricultural Produce (Development & Warehousing) Corporations Act, 1956.

Additional Financial Commissioner and Secretary to Government of Punjab (Agriculture and Rehabilitation Department) has been appointed as the Chairman of the State Warehousing Corporation.

### Cotton Cultivation

**808. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
**Shri Ram Krishan:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by different State Governments to increase the cotton cultivation areas;

(b) how far different types of cotton have been sown in each State; and

(c) how do these compare with the cultivation of cotton in each State during last five years?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) The steps taken by the different State Governments to increase cotton cultivation are:—

(1) **Expansion of area by**

- (i) reclamation of waste and fallow land;
- (ii) replacement of non-food crops by cotton; and
- (iii) growing cotton as a second crop.

(2) **Expansion of area under improved varieties**

Through Schemes for multiplication and distribution of improved cotton seeds.

(b) and (c). Two statements showing the area under different types of cotton in the various States during (i) 1953-54 and 1954-55, and (ii) 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58 are laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 141.]

### Vegetables

**809. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government of India in stepping up production and export of vegetables; and

(b) if so, the results achieved so far?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 142.]

### Forest Development in Punjab

**810. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the technical and financial assistance given to the Punjab State to increase the forest plantation during 1957-58?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** No technical assistance was asked for. A sum of Rs. 2,12,000 (Rs. 2,00,000 as loan and Rs. 12,000 as grant) was sanctioned during 1957-58.

### Secondary Schools in Kishenganj Area Railway Colony

**811. Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no secondary school in or around the Kishenganj Area Railway Colony, Delhi;

(b) whether Government are aware that Railwaymen in the Colony are finding it very difficult to educate their children;

(c) whether any representation has been made to the authorities of the Northern Railway in this connection; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

### Equipment for Indian Railways

**812.** { **Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
**Shri Ram Krishan:**

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries and firms with whom Government have arrived at agreements to supply equipment such as wagons, coaches and locomotives to the Indian Railways during 1958-59 and 1959-60;

(b) the nature and details of such agreements with total value;

(c) whether any schedule for delivery has been fixed; and

(d) if so, what?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a), (b) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 143.]

(c) Yes.

### Facilities at Post Offices for Small Savings

**812. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Savings Central Advisory Committee met in Delhi recently to consider the provisions of additional facilities in the post offices for the investing public;

(b) if so, the decisions taken thereat; and

(c) the steps taken to implement them?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 144.]

### Soil Erosion

**814. Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the total area at present covered by schemes to prevent soil erosion, State-wise; and

(b) the expenditure on the schemes in each State during the year 1957-58?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) and (b). The areas to be covered and those already covered by each State in respect of Soil Conservation Schemes in the Second Five Year Plan and the approximate expenditure during 1957-58, as far as available, are as below:—

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | Area to be covered (acres) | Area covered (acres) | Expenditure 1957-58 (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Assam | 7,027 | 4,027 | 0·75 |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh | 1,07,076 | 14,944 | 4·65 |
| *3 | Bihar (including DVC) | 2,23,440 | 28,682 | 36·56 |
| 4 | Bombay | 10,31,682 | 2,52,000 | 67·41 |
| 5 | Jammu and Kashmir | 44,718 | 16,229 | |
| 6 | Kerala | 20,000 | 2,400 | 1·26 |
| 7 | Madhya Pradesh | 2,63,639 | 91,993 | 12·96 |
| 8 | Madras | 1,26,780 | 46,939 | 22·30 |
| 9 | Mysore | 1,87,513 | 69,353 | 15.66 |
| 10 | Orissa | 77,027<br>+ 100 miles | 29,803<br>+ 21 miles | 14·22 |
| 11 | Punjab | 80,985<br>+ 223 miles | 32,551<br>+ 100 miles | 8·08 |
| 12 | Rajasthan | 6,000 | 250 | 0·48 |
| 13 | Uttar Pradesh | 2,60,150 | 15,513 | 14·18 |
| *14 | West Bengal | 46,400 | 1,540 | 5·87 |
| 15 | Andaman & Nicobar | .. | .. | .. |
| 16 | Delhi | 3,337 | 1,514 | 0·85 |
| 17 | Himachal Pradesh | 7,891 | 6,497 | 1·38 |
| 18 | Manipur | 500 | 274 | 1·12 |
| 19 | Tripura | 400 | 100 | 0·19 |
| | TOTAL | 24,94,565<br>+<br>323 miles | 6,14,409<br>+<br>121 miles | 214·68 |

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*Figures not yet reported by State Government. These are approximate figures taken from the Government of India's records.

### दिल्ली में अनधिकृत रूप से बनाये गये मकान

८१५. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर** : क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री २५ फरवरी, १९५८ के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ५५६ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली में सत्तर हजार अनधिकृत मकान हैं ;

(ख) इन मे से कितने मकानों के बारे में मालिको को नोटिस दिये जा चुके है ; और

(ग) ३१ जुलाई, १९५८ तक इन में से कितने मकान गिराये गये ?

**स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (श्री करमरकर)** : (क) से (ग). मांगी गई जानकारी का एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है । [देखिये परिशिष्ट २, अनुबन्ध संख्या १४५]

### दिल्ली में नहरी पानी का दिया जाना

८१६. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर:**
**श्री राधा रमण :**

क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली के देहाती क्षेत्रों में नहरी पानी बारी से नहीं दिया जाता है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो लोगों को किस आधार पर पानी दिया जाता है ; और

(ग) किन दरों पर पानी दिया जाता है ?

**सिंचाई तथा विद्युत उपमंत्री (श्री हाथी)** : (क) उत्तर नहीं में है ।

(ख) पंजाब सिंचाई विभाग दिल्ली के कुछ गांवों को सिंचाई के लिये नहरी पानी देता है । यह पानी बारी बारी से दिया जाता है और इसकी मात्रा नदी में उपलब्ध पानी पर निर्भर रहती है । पानी बारह मासी नहरों तथा बाढ़ नालों द्वारा दिया जाता है । खेती योग्य सींचे आने वाले क्षेत्र को, २.८६ क्यूसक फी हजार एकड़ के हिसाब से बारह मासी नहरों द्वारा और २.४ क्यूसक फी हजार एकड़ के हिसाब से बाढ़ नालों द्वारा पानी दिया जाता है ।

(ग) पानी की दरे फसलों के आधार पर पंजाब सरकार द्वारा स्वीकृत अनुसूची के अनुसार है । वे इस प्रकार है :—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| गेहूं | रु० ५–१३–६ | फी एकड़ |
| चना | रु० ४–७–६ | फी एकड़ |
| धान | रु० ६–१२–० | फी एकड़ |
| कपास | रु० ६–१२–० | फी एकड़ |
| गन्ना | रु० १६–८–० | फी एकड़ |

बागों और बगीचों के लिये रु० ८–४–० फी एकड़

### Thefts and Dacoities in Trains

817. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the cases of thefts and dacoities in running trains between January, 1957 and July, 1958;

(b) the number of casualties; and

(c) the amount of loss?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) 7269.

(b) 83.

(c) Rs. 33 lakhs.

### Maize

818. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new varieties of maize produced so far; and

(b) which are the States where research work on maize crop is in progress?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) The new maize varieties produced so far are:

> Punjab Hybrids Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 in East Punjab, $(I_3 \times L_6) \times S_{23}$ in Bombay State and D.C.1 and D.C.2 at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

The seed of four top performing American hybrids, namely N.C. 27, U.S. 13, Texas 26 and Kan 1639 is also being produced in India.

(b) Research work on the maize crop is in progress in the following States:—

1. Kashmir.
2. Punjab.
3. Uttar Pradesh.
4. Bihar.
5. West Bengal.
6. Rajasthan.
7. Madhya Pradesh.
8. Bombay.
9. Mysore.
10. Andhra Pradesh.
11. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

### Price Level of Foodgrains

819. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) present price level of foodgrains in the country at different centres; and

(b) how does this compare with the corresponding price level of the last year?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) and (b). A comparative statement showing the wholesale prices of rice, wheat, jowar, bajra and maize as on 20th August in the years 1957 and 1958 at certain centres in the country is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 146.]

### Report of the River Valley Projects Technical Personnel Committee

820. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the Report of the River Valley Projects Technical Personnel Committee;

(b) if so, the recommendations accepted by Government so far; and

(c) the steps taken by Central and State Governments to implement these *recommendations?*

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement showing action taken on the various recommendations is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 147].

### Development of Cotton

821. { **Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
**Shri Ram Krishan:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent out of the Central fund allotted for expenditure on the development of cotton during the last two years of the First Five Year Plan and during 1956-57 and 1957-58;

(b) what progress the Central Cotton Committee has made so far and how many Regional Committees, have been set up;

(c) whether the Research Institute has completed investigation of the technological possibilities of cotton improvements; and

(d) if so, what are the results?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a)

| Year | Grants | Short-term interest-bearing loans |
|---|---|---|
| | Rs. | Rs. |
| 1954-55 | 12.00,451 | 31,70,000 |
| 1955-56 | 8,10,159 | 26,00,000 |
| 1956-57 | 8,54,900 | 2[illegible],00,000 |
| 1957-58 | 7,43,217 | 17,36,100 |

(b) to (d). A note giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 148).

### Soil Conservation Seminar

822. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
**Shri Ram Krishan:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soil Conservation Seminar was held at Ootacamund during the month of May, this year; and

(b) the main features of Seminar?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The object of the Seminar was to review and co-ordinate the plan and progress of research work on Soil Conservation in the country and to afford opportunities to both research and extension workers to discuss problems of mutual interest in speeding up the adoption of Soil Conservation measures. The main features of the Seminar were:

(i) A review of the progress of work at the Central Research, Demonstration and Training Centres and the formulation of the programme for the next year.

(ii) Discussions on the problems of erosion in the Himalyas and Sivaliks with special reference to Cho control, shifting cultivation and crops and soil management in such regions.

(iii) Discussions on the problems of erosion in arid and semi-arid regions in India.

(iv) Discussions on the problems of the formation and reclamation of ravines.

(v) Discussions on soil survey in relation to land utilization with particular reference to the All India Soil Survey Scheme undertaken by the Government of India.

A number of important recommendations were made on all these subjects for action both by the Central and State Governments which are under consideration.

### I.L.O.

823. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
**Shri Ram Krishan:**

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national maritime Conference of the International Labour Organisation was held in Geneva in April-May, 1958;

(b) if so, the names of persons who represented India at the said Conference; and

(c) the main recomendations of this Conference?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes. The 41st (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference was held in Geneva from 27th April to 18th May, 1958;

(b) The following persons represented India at the said Conference:—

*Government Delegates*:

Dr. Nagendra Singh, I.C.S., Director General of Shipping, *New Delhi* (Leader of the Delegation).

Dr. S. T. Morani, I.A.S., Labour Attache *Geneva.*

*Employers Delegates:*

Mr. R. E. Kumana (Delegate). Managing Director, Scindia Steamship (London) Ltd., *London.*

Mr. T. M. Sanghavi (Advisor), Great Eastern Shipping Co., Ltd., *Bombay.*

*Workers Delegates:*

Mr. A. K. Mohamed Sorang (Delegate) National Union. of Seamen, *Bombay.*

Mr. Bikas Majumdar (Advisor), National Union of Seamen, *Calcutta.*

(c) A statement indicating briefly the gist of the main recommendations of the Conference is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 149].

### मूंगफली की खेती

८२४. **श्री डामर** : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५४ से १९५७ तक प्रति वर्ष भारतवर्ष में कितनी भूमि मे मूंगफली की खेती हुई ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार का मूंगफली की खेती के बढ़ते हुये रकबे को रोकने का विचार है ?

**खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री अ० ० जैन)** : (क) सन् १९५३–५४ से १९५७–५८ तक मूंगफली की खेती का क्षेत्रफल निम्नलिखित था :—

| सन् | क्षेत्र—हजारों की संख्या में एकड़ |
|---|---|
| १९५३–५४ | १०,४९५ |
| १९५४–५५ | १३,५४८ |
| १९५५–५६ | १२,६९२ |
| १९५६–५७ | १३,४५० |
| १९५७–५८ | १४,४५७ |

(ख) अनाज की फसलों के अन्तर्गत की भूमि को बिना कम किये मूंगफली के साथ तिलहनों के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने का प्रस्ताव है। मूंगफली के उत्पादन की बढ़ोतरी अधिक पैदावार के तरीकों के द्वारा की जायेगी। वास्तव में पिछले चार सालों में क्षेत्र की बढ़ोतरी नहीं के बराबर है।

### उत्तर प्रदेश में नई लाइनों का सर्वेक्षण

८२५. { **श्री भक्त दर्शन :**
**श्री रामेश्वर टांटिया :**

क्या रेलवे मंत्री निम्नलिखित बातें बताने वाला एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में शुरू से अब तक जिन रेलवे लाइनों का सर्वेक्षण किया गया है, उनके नाम क्या है ;

(ख) प्रत्येक सर्वेक्षण का पूरा ब्यौरा जैसे सर्वेक्षण का वर्ष, किन-किन स्थानों को मिलाया जायेगा, प्रस्तावित लाइन की लम्बाई, अनुमानित खर्च आदि दिया गया हो ;

(ग) किन किन लाइनों का निर्माण हो चुका है अथवा किया जायेगा ; और

(घ) जिन लाइनों का सर्वेक्षण हो चुका है उन्हें न बनाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

**रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां)** : (क) से (घ). जिन लाइनों का सर्वे किया जाता है उनकी रिपोर्ट राज्य के अनुसार नहीं, बल्कि रेलवे के अनुसार रखी जाती है। फिर भी एक बयान सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है जिसमें उन नई लाइनों का ब्यौरा दिया गया है जो पूर्णतः या अंशतः उत्तर प्रदेश में हैं और जिनका सर्वे अभी पिछले कुछ वर्षों में (पहली और दूसरी पंच-वर्षीय योजनाओं की अवधि में) किया गया है। [देखिये परिशिष्ट २, अनुबन्ध संख्या १५०]

### Cultivation in Mysore

**826. Shri Wodeyar:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount allotted to Mysore State for intensive cultivation under the First Five Year Plan and Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether the Mysore Government have asked the Central Government for extra funds for this purpose?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P Jain):** (a) There is no allotment either in the First Five Year Plan or in the Second Five Year Plan for intensive cultivation as such. The information about the total allocations under the Grow More Food Schemes are, however, given below:—

> Amounts allotted during the First and Second Five Year Plans are Rs. 401·03 lakhs and Rs. 676·19 lakhs respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir. An additional sum of Rs. 40 lakhs has been asked for Minor Irrigation Schemes and the demand is under consideration.

### Azamgarh-Goshaiganj Rail Link

**827. Shri Kalika Singh:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons which prompted Government to undertake preliminary Engineering Survey for Azamgarh-Goshaiganj Rail Link in the year 1906-07 in Railway District Banaras;

(b) what was the total mileage which was proposed to be constructed then as a result of the Engineering Survey and what were the intermediate railway stations proposed on the line and at what spot was the proposed line to cross the river Tons;

(c) why was the construction of line not started;

(d) whether it was then proposed to link Azamgarh to Banaras by a straight route in continuation of the Goshaiganj-Azamgarh route; and

(e) whether this line has been recommended by U.P Government for inclusion in Second Plan?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) The B. & N. W. Railway Co. who carried out the survey in 1906-07 had an idea to connect Azamgarh with Tanda, a town in the Faizabad district, but in response to U.P. Government's request for a connection to Goshaiganj, the preliminary Engineering Survey was done from Azamgarh up to Goshaiganj.

(b) The total mileage of the proposed line was 67·56. The intermediate stations proposed on the line were—Azamgarh City, Gopalpur, Koelsa, Atraulia, Ama(flag), Baskhari, Tanda, Birahimpur and Amsin The proposed Railway line was to cross the river Tons at a distance of 3 miles from Azamgarh station.

(c) As Tanda, the only important town to be served by the proposed railway, could be effectively served by a much shorter branch line from an adjacent station on the O. & R. Railway, the construction of this long railway line was not considered necessary.

(d) No such proposal appears to have been considered.

(e) No, Sir.

### जुब्बल वन विभाग में कार्य की योजना

**८२८. श्री पद्म देव :** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जुब्बल वन विभाग में १९४७ से एक कार्यकारी योजना कार्यान्वित की जा रही है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो योजना कार्यान्वित होने में देर के क्या कारण हैं ?

**खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री अ० प्र० जैन) :** (क) पूछी हुई कार्यकारी योजना में सन् १९४८ से काम हो रहा है ।

(ख) (१) सन् १९५३ और १९५४ में जंगल में फैलने वाली आग लगने के परिणामस्वरूप कार्यकारी योजना का परिशोधन और (२) टेक्निकल स्टाफ की कमी के कारण ।

### हिमाचल प्रदेश में वन विकास

८२९. **श्री पद्म देव** : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वन विभाग हिमाचल प्रदेश में अब भी पुरानी भारतीय रियासतों के नियम तथा विनियम लागू होते है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार पुराने नियमों में संशोधन के लिये किसी प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है ?

**खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री अ० प्र० जैन)** : (क) जी नहीं । हिमाचल प्रदेश के बनने के बाद र ज्य के पुराने नियम और विनियम, इण्डियम फारेस्ट एक्ट, १९२७ के अंतर्गत बनाये नियमों में उपयुक्त ढंग से मिला दिये गये हैं ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नही होता ।

### Railway Level Crossing

830. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary**: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is no level crossing for a distance of nearly three miles between Chupra and **Mopasamhotes** stations on the North **Eastern** Railway; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan)**: (a) Presumably the Hon. Member refers to Kopa-Samhota station. If so, Yes, Sir. However, 7 cattle-cum-pedestrian crossings exist between these two stations.

(b) Level crossings are not provided on the consideration of length or distance between the two stations. At the time of the construction of a railway line and upto a period of 10 years after the opening of the railway line, level crossings as required by the State Government are provided at Railway's cost. Thereafter, if any level crossing is required to be provided, the same is done on receipt of a request from the State Government and the State Government's acceptance to bear the initial cost of construction as well as recurring cost of maintenance. The Railway Administration will provide a level crossing between Chupra and Kopa-Samhota, if a request is received from the State Government and the State Government agree to bear the cost as mentioned above.

### Derailment of Goods Train.

831. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary**: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the circumstances under which several wagons of the 906 Dn. Goods Express coming from Chupra were derailed at Barauni station yard on the 14th May, 1958;

(b) the loss suffered by the Railways on account of the damage to the track and goods in the derailed wagons; and

(c) whether responsibility has been fixed and proper steps taken against those responsible for the derailment?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shanawaz Khan)**: (a) On 14-5-58 at about 13.40 hours while No. 906 Down Express Goods train was entering line No. 5 of Barauni Station, there was a rail fracture. As a result of this, the train engine and three wagons got derailed and five wagons capsized.

(b) The cost of damage to Railway property was assessed at Rs. 300. There was no loss to the contents of derailed wagons.

(c) The accident was attributed to the breakage of the rail which was due to a flaw in the metal; hence no individual was held responsible.

### Railway Accident on Sealdah

**832. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rail accident took place on the Sealdah Platform on the 18th June, 1958;

(b) if so, extent of loss of human lives and property;

(c) the causes of the accident; and

(d) the action taken against the persons held responsible for the accident?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) On 18th June 1958, at about 16.00 hours while the Engine of S383 Up Calcutta—Santipur Passenger was being attached on to the train standing on platform No. 3 of Sealdah North Station, it bumped against the rake as a result of which one vehicle which was next to the engine derailed of its two leading wheels.

(b) No one was killed. However, twelve persons sustained minor injuries and one grievous injuries.

The cost of damage to Railway property was assessed at Rs. 1,917.

(c) and (d). The G.R. Police have launched criminal proceedings against the Driver of the Train Engine and the case is *sub judice*.

### Foreign Exchange for Purchase of New Ships

**833. Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the difficulties are being experienced to arrange payment to implement plans to buy new ships for expansion of ,Indian Shipping; and

(b) is so, what action Government propose to take to carry on with the expansion plans for shipping?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). Yes. Certain difficulties are being experienced owing to shortage of foreign exchange. To overcome this the following measures have been taken:—

(i) A sum of £5 million has been earmarked for acquisition of ships by the Indian Shipping Companies both in the public and private sectors, from out of the Yen Credit negotiated with the Government of Japan.

(ii) A small amount of Rs. 15 lakhs has been made available from free foreign exchange resources during the current half year for acquisition of second-hand ships.

(iii) Indian Shipping Companies have been permitted to acquire ships for overseas trade on self-financing basis by which the cost of ship is met out of its net foreign exchange earning. They have also been permitted to obtain overdrafts from foreign banks to meet the first instalment of the cost of acquisition where necessary. In this way 9 vessels totalling approximately 51,000 G.B.T. have been purchased so far.

(iv) The possibility of purchasing ships for India on barter basis is being explored.

(v) The possibility of securing foreign exchange loans especially for purchase of ships is also being considered.

### Hubli-Karwar Railway

**834. Shri Joachim Alva:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Minister for Railways (Shri Ramaswamy) made a statement recently at Hubli that the Hubli-Karwar railway will have to wait until the question of a major port at Karwar was settled; and

(b) what are the past and present proposals in regard to the establishment of a railway in North Kanara district?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shanawaz Khan):** (a) No, Sir. ..

(b) The following proposals were considered in the past:—

(i) Hubli-Sirsi;

(ii) Alnawar-Haliyal-Yellapur-Karwar.

(iii) Dandeli-Joida.

(iv) Mangalore-Bombay.

The first proposal was surveyed in 1920. Recently an aerial survey has been conducted of the area between Dasgaon and Mangalore with the object of studying the possibilities of railway development in this region. Proposals (ii) and (iv) are such possibilities.

### Rice and Wheat

**835. Shri Ramam:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the actual purchases of rice and wheat made so far within the country on Government of India account since 1955; and

(b) what were the prices paid for them and how do they compare with the market prices?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Rice: about 442 thousand tons upto 13-8-1958.

Wheat: about 84.4 thousand tons (purchased in 1955 & 1956 only).

(b) The prices paid for rice and wheat were as follows:—

*Rice*: The price ranged from Rs. 11.97 nP. to Rs. 25.00 per maund, (bagged) inclusive of cost of gunny, depending on the variety of rice and the year of purchase.

*Wheat*: The price ranged from Rs. 10 per maund of naked grain to Rs. 13.48 nP. per maund bagged F.O.R.

The price paid for rice was in some cases the prevailing market rate, in others the average of three months' market rates, and in yet others the maximum control prices in force in the locality. The price paid for 76.4 thousand tons of wheat in 1955 was Rs. 10 per maund of naked grain under the price support Scheme, and in other cases it was the prevailing market rate.

### Deodar and Kail Plantation

**836. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have decided to make efforts to increase Deodar and Kail plantation in India; and

(b) which of the States in India have been considered suitable for growing Deodar and Kail?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) In the 2nd Five Year Plan the Government of India have provided for assistance to State Governments for increasing plantations of commercial and industrial species including Deodar and Kail.

(b) The States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh are the most suitable areas for increasing plantations of Kail and Deodar and Governments are taking all possible steps in this direction.

### Passenger Amenities on Trains

**837. Shri Subiman Ghose:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in S 101 up (leaving Sealdah, Calcutta Division) on the 30th June, 1958 there was no lavatory in the first class compartment;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in such compartment in the said train, usually there is no lavatory although it takes about 3½ hours to reach Burdwan; and

(c) if so, the reasons for having no such lavatory?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan)**: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) 28 Suburban rakes work in the north suburban service of Sealdah Division out of which 6 rakes have no lavatories in any class of compartment. All the 28 rakes work in a combined link. New suburban stock are not provided with lavatories, as a matter of policy, in order to conserve the space to carry maximum number of suburban passengers. Lavatories already existing in some old rakes are not being renewed, to avoid infructuous expenditure on old stock.

### Joint Water Supply Scheme at Manmad

838. **Shri Jadhav**: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Manmad Municipality in Bombay State has approached the Railway Board for joint water supply scheme at Manmad;

(b) what is the amount of financial help requested for by the Municipality;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is always acute shortage of water in the Railway population at Manmad;

(d) what is the number of railway employees in Manmad;

(e) what proportion of the employees is in the Railway area and in the Municipal area; and

(f) when is Government going to extend the financial help asked for?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan)**: (a) The Central Railway requested the Railway Board for permission to participate in a joint scheme.

(b) The Railway's share of costs of the joint scheme has been assessed at Rs. 5·28 lakhs on the basis of the proportionate off take of water to be supplied.

(c) Shortage both for domestic needs and locomotive requirements is experienced in years of scant rainfall.

(d) 4,250.

(e) The proportion is 1·3.

(f) As stated in (b) above, the Railway may contribute its share of cost and the question of financial help as such does not arise. The matter is under consideration.

### Drainage water at Manmad Railway Quarters

839. **Shri Jadhav**: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drainage water from Manmad (Bombay State Central Railway) Railway quarters goes into the Municipal area; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to divert the same?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy)**: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise:

### Sugar Mills

840. { **Shri Jadhav**:
**Pandit D. N. Tiwary**:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) how many Sugar Mills actually worked during the last season with a break up of old and new sugar mills;

(b) what was the actual production of Sugar;

(c) how much of the Sugar produced was exported; and

(d) what was the production of Gur during the last year?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain)**: (a) 158 Mills. 141 old and 17 new.

(b) 19·67 lakh tons upto 31st July, 1958.

(c) Contracts for the export of about 17,670 tons have been made so far.

(d) About 30 lakh tons.

### Special Inspector for Fake Ticket Squad

**841. Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Inspector for Fake Ticket Squad was appointed on the Central Railway, Bombay Division two years ago; and

(b) if so, the work done by the Inspector and Squad uptill the 31st July, 1958 in details?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Yes, a "Spurious Tickets Checking Squad" has been functioning on the Central Railway since April, 1956.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No 151.]

### Postal Division

**842. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of various postal divisions of the Punjab Circle;

(b) whether Government propose to create a new postal division; and

(c) if so, when?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c). Proposal for creation of a Division in the Punjab is under examination.

### Ferozepore Railway Station

**843. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation for development of Ferozepore Railway Station, the Yard and Workshop during the Second Five Year Plan period;

(b) the details of the various phases of the programme; and

(c) the work done so far in this regard?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) As the existing facilities are adequate, no allocation has been made for additions and alterations or development of Ferozepore Station, yard and loco shed during the Second Five Year Plan period

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Reclamation of Land

**844. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have chalked out any programme for reclamation of land by the C.T.O. in different States during the year 1958-59;

(b) if so, the details of the programme for each State; and

(c) area to be reclaimed in each State?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The tentative programme which has been drawn up is as under:

| State | No. of C.T.O. units (of 15 tractors each) allocated | Type of work | Target (Acres) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bihar | 3 | Land levelling and terracing | 4,500 |
| Mysore | 1 | Jungle clearance | 1,500 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 2 | Jungle clearance | 3,000 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 5 | Kans clearance | 37,500 |

### Airport Consultative Committee

**845. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the main problems relating to the control and development of aerodromes discussed at the meetings of Airport Consultative Committee since its formation; and

(b) the decisions arrived at?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) and (b). I lay on the Table of the Lok Sabha a statement giving the requisite information [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 152.]

### Regional Horticultural Research Stations

**846. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for the establishment of Horticultural Research Stations on a regional basis for the improvement of fruit crops has been finalised;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme; and

(c) the names of the places where these stations are to be located?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) A model scheme for the establishment of Regional Fruit Research Stations and Sub-stations in different States has been formulated. The pattern of Central financial assistance to be given to the States concerned is, however, under consideration at present.

A Regional Fruit Research Station at Mashobra (Himachal Pradesh) has been sanctioned with effect from 1st February, 1958. Concrete schemes for the establishment of Regional Stations and Sub-stations on the basis of the model scheme referred to above have been received from a number of States. They will be scrutinised and sanctioned after the pattern of financial assistance has been settled.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 153.]

### State Farm at Suratnagar

**847. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Russian experts working at present at the Suratnagar Mechanised Farm in Rajasthan and for how long they are likely to continue;

(b) the number of Indians who have so far been recruited for operational purposes; and

(c) the number which is likely to be absorbed when the Farm will be in full swing?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) None at present. But we have requested the U.S.S.R Government to place the services of one expert and an interpreter at the disposal of the Suratgarh Farm for about 9 months with effect from September, 1958.

(b) About 150 on the regular establishment Besides, about 200 persons per day on an average, are engaged on daily wage basis, the number going up to 600 per day during busy seasons.

(c) A rough estimate is that there would be about 600 persons on the regular establishment and 250 to 450 daily paid labourers The number of daily paid labourers is expected to go upto 1,500 per day in peak seasons.

### Indian Posts and Telegraphs Museum

**848. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state the progress so far made for establishing an Indian Posts and Telegraphs Museum?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** Due to unavoidable circumstances it has not been possible to make progress in regard to the setting up of the proposed P. & T. Museum. The work, however, is likely to commence from November this year.

### Community Development and N.E.S. Schemes in Punjab

**849. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Community Development** be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of area and population covered under the Community Development and N.E.S. Schemes in Punjab during 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59 so far district-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the total amount spent by the Central Government thereon during the above period?

**The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey):** (a) and (b). A Statement giving the available information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II No. 154]. Complete information will be obtained from the State Government and laid on the Table later.

### Payment of Cane Price to cultivators in U.P.

**850. Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the price of sugarcane supplied by the cane growers to the Balrampur and Tulsipur sugar mills, District Gonda (U.P.) upto the 15th July, 1958 and the amount of money paid to the cultivators against cane supplies;

(b) whether arrears of cane price have been paid;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to clear the arrears and ensure prompt payment of cane price on demand?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) The total price of sugarcane supplied to Balrampur and Tulsipur Sugar Mills and amount of money paid to cultivators upto 15th July, 1958 was as under:—

| | BALRAMPUR (Lakh Rs.) | TULSIPUR (Lakh Rs.) |
|---|---|---|
| Price of Sugarcane supplied | 35·89 | 39·29 |
| Amount paid | 35·89 | 39·24 |

(b) and (c). There are no arrears of cane price except Rs. 5,000 in case of Tulsipur factory. This amount has been held up for final adjustment of accounts.

(d) Does not arise.

### Cooperative Farming

**851. Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 991 on the 7th March, 1958 and state:

(a) whether reports from the various States regarding progress made in cooperative farming have since been received; and

(b) if so, whether a statement summarising the various reports will be placed on the Table?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) and (b). A statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 155.]

### Ginger

**852. Shri Maniyangadan:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the price of ginger in the market;

(b) the cost of production of the commodity;

(c) whether it is a fact that the cost of production is higher than the price prevailing in the market and if so, what steps are being taken to ensure the producer a reasonable margin of profit;

(d) whether any representation has been received from producers regarding the difficulties which face them; and

(e) if so, the action, if any, taken by Government on those representations?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) A statement giving the latest available information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 156.]

(b) Data regarding cost of production of ginger are not available.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

### Supply of Rice to Kerala State

**853. Shri Maniyangadan:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice agreed to be supplied by the Central Government to the Kerala State during each of the months from June to December, 1958; and

(b) the prices paid for the rice so supplied by the Central and State Governments respectively?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) During June and July 1958, Kerala State was allotted 12,000 tons of rice for each month. For August, 12,000 tons of rice has been allotted on replacement basis. In September, the rice crop will be harvested in Kerala and the position is expected to become easier thereafter. It will however be open to the Kerala Government to continue purchases from Andhra Pradesh, if necessary.

(b) Rice issued to Kerala Government from Central Stocks (except what is given on replacement basis) is charged at the same price of Rs. 16/- per maund as is charged for supplies to other States. The average economic cost of rice procured from different sources by the Central Government is much higher.

### Parlakimedi Light Railway

**854. Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tickets are not issued at the counters of the railway stations on the Parlakimedi Light Railway line for more than six months to the travelling public for want of stock of railway tickets, with the result that there is a scope for corruption and leakage of huge revenue; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to have sufficient stock of railway tickets?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). It is not a fact that printed card tickets were not issued at the railway stations on the old Parlakimedi Light Railway for more than six months. There had been, however, *some* cases of non-availability of printed card tickets at certain stations for a few destinations, and blank paper and excess fare tickets were issued to passengers. In such instances, special steps were taken to arrange early supply of printed card tickets in adequate quantities.

### Seamen Employment Offices

**855. Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state how many seamen of foreign origin *i.e.* Pakistani, Portuguese and others have got their employment through the Seamen Employment Offices of the Ministry of Transport of the Government of India so far?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** The number of seamen of foreign nationality (Pakistani, Portuguese Indians and others) registered at the Seamen's Employment Offices at Bombay and Calcutta is as follows:—

| | BOMBAY | CALCUTTA | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pakistanis | 1016 | 14168 | 15,184 |
| Portuguese (Indians) | 13056 | — | 13,056 |
| Chinese and others. | 187 | — | 187 |
| | 14259 | 14168 | 28427 |

Of these, the number employed as no 30-6-1958 is as given below.

| | BOMBAY | CALCUTTA | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pakistanis | 488 | 8416 | 8904 |
| Portugues: (Indians) | 9148 | ... | 9148 |
| Chinese and others | 101 | ... | 101 |
| | 27[illegible]7 | 8416 | 13153 |

### Civil Hospital, Imphal

**856.** { **Shri L. Achaw Singh:**
**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:**
**Shri Warior:**

Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the X-Ray Plant at the Civil Hospital at Imphal has been out of order and the general public have suffered thereby; and

(b) if so, whether any other plant is being acquired by the Manipur Administration or not?

**The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) The X-Ray plant has been out of order since February, 1958.

(b) It is not proposed to acquire another X-Ray plant as the present one is repairable and steps have already been taken to obtain parts by air from U.S.A.

### Loan for Shipping Companies

**857. Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state how many shipping companies have utilised Government loan and to what extent during the last four years?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 157].

### Procurement of Paddy in Tripura

**858. Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of paddy procured by Government from the Pak Ziratia tenants of Tripura during the last season;

(b) whether the amount was far less than what was expected;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a demand has been made to set up an Enquiry Committee to go into this matter; and

(e) if so, what step has been taken to set up such a committee?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) 21,813 maunds.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). In their Memorandum submitted in June, 1958 the self-styled 'Khadya Sankat Tran Committee' alleged that proper accounts of paddy and rice collected from Ziratias were not being maintained and demanded a judicial enquiry. As the allegations were baseless, no action thereon was considered necessary by the Tripura Administration.

### Import of Foodgrains

**859. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent on food imports during the first two years of the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount of money likely to be spent in the third year of the plan; and

(c) the amount of money spent as freight charges?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) About Rs. 278 crores.

(b) The budget provision is about Rs. 111 Crores inclusive of Rs. 16 Crores for freight.

(c) About Rs. 57 Crores during the first two years of the Plan.

### Import of Timber

**860. Shri Subbiah Ambalam:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the timber is permitted to be imported freely into India from Andaman Islands;

(b) if so, what is the value of timber so imported into India during the years 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58;

(c) whether the timber is also exported to other countries from Andaman Islands; and

(d) if so, the principal countries to which it is so exported and its value during the years from 1955 to 1958?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1955-56 Rs. 47 Lakhs approximately.
1956-57 Rs. 66 Lakhs approximately.
1957-58 Rs. 67 Lakhs approximately.

This does not include value of timber exported by M/S. P. C. Ray & Co. (I) Private Ltd. who are the lessee for North Andamans.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) United Kingdom, Continental Ports, Middle East and Australia.

1955-56 Sterling £2.25 Lakhs.
1956-57 Sterling £1.20 Lakhs.
1957-58 No exports.

This does not include value of timber exported by M/s. P. C. Ray & Co. (I) Private Ltd., who are the lessee for North Andamans.

### Visual Omni-directional Range System at Santa Cruz

**861. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visual Omni-directional Range (V.O.R.) System has been installed at Santa Cruz Air Port;

(b) the total cost of this system;

(c) names of other Aerodromes where this system will be installed; and

(d) by what time?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) Yes, Sir. A V.O.R. system has been installed at Santa Cruz Airport and brought into regular operation with effect from 25th May 1958.

(b) Rs. 3.45 lakhs out of which equipment costing Rs. 2.18 lakhs has been received free of cost from the U.S.A. Government

(c) Ahmedabad, Belgaum, Dum Dum, Coimbatore, Palam, Gaya, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Lucknow, Madras, Nagpur, Tiruchirappalli and another aerodrome yet to be decided. One V.O.R. is being used in the laboratory of Civil Aviation Training Centre, Allahabad for training purposes.

(d) Installation of V.O.R. systems at Tiruchirappalli, Nagpur and Coimbatore has been taken in hand and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The installation of V.O.R. systems at other aerodromes will be done progressively as and when the formalities for the acquisition of land, construction of technical buildings and provision of power supply, for which action has already been initiated, are completed. It is not possible to say at this stage when these works would be completed.

### Rains in Delhi

**862. Shri Ramam:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the number of bridges damaged in Delhi on account of heavy rains during July, 1958;

(b) how many of them were constructed recently; and

(c) the amount spent for repairing each of them?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II; annexure No. 158].

### माल का ब्रेकवान

६७३. श्री क० मे० मालवीय : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का माल के ब्रेक-वान का डिजाईन बदलने का विचार है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या उन में भारतीय टाइप के शौचालय की व्यवस्था की जा रही है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इस के क्या कारण है ?

**रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां) :** (क) जी नही, लेकिन इस में कुछ सुधार करने के बारे में विचार हो रहा है ।

(ख) जी, नही ।

(ग) एक बयान सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है । [देखिये परिशिष्ट २, अनुबन्ध संख्या १५६]

### रेलवे मन्त्री का कार्यालय

८६४. श्री क० मे० मालवीय : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रेलवे मंत्री के कार्यालय में कितने कर्मचारी काम करते है ;

(ख) कितनों को कितना विशेष वेतन मिलता है; और

(ग) क्या यह विशेष वेतन किसी टैक्नीकल काम के लिये दिया जाता है ?

**रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां) :** (क) चौथे दर्जे के कर्मचारियों को छोड़ कर सात ।

(ख) दो कर्मचारियों को पचास- पचास रुपये विशेष वेतन (special pay) दिया जाता है ।

(ग) यह विशेष वेतन इसलिये दिया जाता है क्योंकि उन्हें जो काम करना पड़ता है वह दुष्कर (arduous) है ।

### Cement Factory at Charkhi Dadri

**865. Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the total wagons allotted to cement factory at Charkhi Dadri since the 1st January, 1958 month-wise;

(b) total amount of demurrage charged from the factory during the same period, month-wise; and

(c) total amount of siding charges for empty haulage paid by the factory since January, 1958, month-wise?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) The total number of wagons allotted to the cement factory at Charkhi Dadri since January 1958 month-wise were as follows:—

| Month | No of wagons |
|---|---|
| **January 1958** | 442 |
| **February 1958** | 322 |

| Month | No. of wagons |
|---|---|
| March 1958 | 747 |
| April 1958 | 782 |
| May 1958 | 750 |
| June 1958 | 741 |
| July 1958 | 1,030 |

(b) The total amount of demurrage charged from the Cement Factory at Charkhi Dadri from January to July 1958 were as follows:—

| Month | Demurrange charged Rs. |
|---|---|
| January 1958 | 278/- |
| February 1958 | 1,425/- |
| March 1958 | 3,599/- |
| April 1958 | 2,952/- |
| May 1958 | 3,177/- |
| June 1958 | 2,518/- |
| July 1958 | 3,218/- |

(c) The total amount of siding charges for empty haulage paid by the Cement factory at Charkhi Dadri since January, 1958 monthwise were as follows:—

| Month | Siding charges Rs. |
|---|---|
| January 1958 | 704/- |
| February 1958 | 881/- |
| March 1958 | 1,021/- |
| April 1958 | 781/- |
| May 1958 | 851/- |
| June 1958 | 824/- |
| July 1958 | 766/- |

### दिल्ली में यातायात की भीड़

**८६६. श्री विभूति मिश्र:** क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री ८ मई, १९५८ के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ३६०२ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि दिल्ली के खारी बावली और फाटक हबश खां के बीच यातायात की भीड़ को कम करने के लिये अब तक कहां तक सफलता मिली है ?

**परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) :** अपेक्षित सूचना से संबंधित विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है । [देखिये परिशिष्ट २, अनुबन्ध संख्या १६०]

### Sub-Post Offices

**867. Shri Daljit Singh:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new Sub-Post Offices have been sanctioned for Kangra and Hoshiarpur districts of Punjab during the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the names of the places where sanctioned?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 161].

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12.05 hrs.

## MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

### OUTBREAK OF GASTRO-ENTERITIS IN DELHI

**Mr. Speaker:** I have an Adjournment Motion from Shri Tangamani and Shri Banerjee; another from Shri Vajpayee and a third from Shri Braj Raj Singh. The first of these deals with the "sudden outbreak of gastro-enteritis epidemic in Delhi resulting in death of nine persons and over 150 cases being admitted in various hospital".

In the Adjournment Motion tabled by Shri Vajpayee on the same subject, there is only a difference in figure—instead of nine, he has mentioned 11.

**An Hon. Member:** 12.

**Mr. Speaker:** Possibly, it may also be 12.

**Shri Tangamani** (Madurai): I want to make a submission.

**Mr. Speaker:** What is the submission? We will find in the newspapers all that has happened.

**Some Hon. Members** *rose*—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. So far as the Adjournment Motions are concerned, there seems to be a tendency existing for more than one hon. Member getting up together. Well, there are very serious cases. But what is the good of emphasising it? I am going to ask the hon. Minister to let us know what steps are being taken to control the epidemic. We had floods; then scarcity; and again floods. Now, unfortunately, there is the epidemic.

**Shri Tangamani:** It is urgent.

**Mr. Speaker:** I understand that this is an urgent thing. These things have occurred particularly in the headquarters, in the capital I am asking the hon Minister to let us know the position. It cannot be said that the Minister is responsible for this. Anyhow, let me see what steps are being taken.

**Shri Tangamani:** The point that I would like to make for the information of the hon. Minister is......

**Several Hon. Members** *rose*—

**Mr. Speaker:** Several hon. Members are simultaneously standing and speaking. I am not going to allow that.

**The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar):** This is normally the season when we do expect some cases of gastro-enteritis.

**Shri Tangamani:** I would like to clarify .one point and help the hon. Minister to know all the points if I am given the opportunity.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let me hear the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister is expected to be in touch with the things. This is not the first time that the hon. Members have known this. They have seen it in the newspapers. If I find that there is any serious thing which requires the attention of the House by way of an Adjournment Motion, I shall see to it. Otherwise, I will ask the hon. Minister to take better steps.

**Shri Tangamani:** Apart from the people of that area......

**Mr. Speaker:** I should ask the hon. Member not to persist like that. I am calling the hon. Minister.

**Shri Karmarkar:** I would like to share with the hon. House all the facts that we possess on this side of the House. As I was saying, these monsoon months are the period during which we in Delhi normally see this disease coming up. Last year there were about 89 cases with three deaths —from May to August. This year, I regret to tell the House that there have been two major outbreaks of the disease of an explosive nature, involving two groups of large population, one at Trinagar and the other at Sarai Khalil. At Trinagar, the cases started roundabout 10th August. This locality has newly grown up during the last four or five years with no adequate system of sewerage or sufficient supply of water from the public water supply system. First cases of gastro-enteritis were reported on the 6th and 9th instant and since then there have been altogether 42 seizures with 7 deaths. All these patients were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The Corporation have carried out about 9,000 cholera inoculations till yesterday. All the wells, about 40, have been disinfected and rigorous anti-fly measures are being taken in the way of clearing dump heaps and filth, etc

Sarai Khalil—this is a slum area in Sadar Bazar locality with a population of about 5,000. There is no sewerage system and with the exception of a few private water taps and a tap in the masjid, there are no public hydrants. Now the facts of the case with regard to the incidence of gastro-enteritis in that locality are as follows:

[Shri Karmarkar]

A number of cases, with acute symptoms of vomitting and diarroeha, have occurred in the Serai Khalil area, near *Sadar Bazar, since the forenoon of* Saturday, the 23rd August, 1958. The first case was reported to have occurred at about 11 a.m. that day, but, unfortunately, no information was conveyed to the Health Department of the Corporation till about 8 p.m. When the health authorities arrived on the spot soon after, they found that 5 persons had already died, and other cases were in various stages of illness. Immediate steps were taken to send all these cases to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, and to make a detailed survey of the area for discovering other causes, if any, giving treatment on the spot, inoculating the population and disinfecting the houses and their surroundings. A temporary dispensary has also been set up.

Till 3.30 p.m. on the 24th August, about 70 cases in all have been admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Since then, until today morning, another 5 or 6 cases have also been admitted. Barring 4 or 5 cases from other adjoining localities, all these have occurred in Serai Khalil itself. Four of the admitted cases have unfortunately died. Since yesterday afternoon there have been two more deaths, one on the way to hospital and another in the hospital itself. The total number of deaths is thus 11.

A clinical study of the hospital cases suggests that they are probably cases of acute gastro-enteritis. A laboratory analysis of samples of stools etc. is under way, but the results will not be known till Monday evening, that is, today evening. Meanwhile, it is the view of the public health authorities that these are unlikely to be cases of *cholera and that there is no cause for* panic.

As regards the probable cause of this outbreak, it was noticed that water *from* a sealed well in the locality....

**Shri Braj Raj Singh** (Firozabad): It was not sealed.

**Shri Karmarkar:** ....was being largely used by the population and is probably the underlying cause. The well has been in existence for many years, but its water is being analysed. Meanwhile, supply from the well has been cut off and additional piped water hydrants are being installed for the use of the people. Till these are ready, water is being supplied by tankers.

It is thought that a private dry latrine, about 10 yards from the well, has probably, by underground seepage, contaminated the well water.

That is the information that we have received up till this morning. The Corporation authorities and the Delhi public health authorities are taking all measures to see to it that this ailment is held in check.

**Shri Tangamani:** What I wanted to say was this. In addition to what has appeared in the press, we have received reports from that area. The figure of deaths is not 9 or 11. It is more than 20. Press reports say that about 150 people have been admitted in the hospital. There is another press report that more than 500 people are being admitted in the hospital. A large number of people in that area are suffering from cholera after the water famine. In addition to what has appeared in the press, we understand that this particular well was constructed during the Moghul period and it is quite likely that it was not cleaned at all It is also likely that there are other, similar wells which are supplying water to those localities, and many of the people of those localities are afraid of it. Further it is likely to spread to some of the slum areas. I just wanted to point out these things

**Shri S. M [illegible]ee** (Kanpur): The hon. Minister was pointing out during *the debate on the scarcity of water,* in reply to Dr. Sushila Nayar that these wells in the city, especially in old Delhi, have never been cleaned. My fear is that this particular well, which was constructed during the Moghul period, might not have been cleaned after the Moghuls left. I want a categorical statement from the hon. Minister as to the steps taken after the breakdown of water supply in this city. That is my submission.

Another thing I want to point out is this. In 1957 about 250 people died in Kanpur because of gastro-enteritis. It has more or less the cholera symptoms. Many boys of 3 to 10 years were dying there. I want to know whether the analyst's report, when it is received, will be placed on the Table of the House and whether a discussion will be initiated on that, because it has occurred in all the States in 1957 and 1958.

**Shri Karmarkar**: I should like to disabuse the assumption of the hon. Member that this disease is more than local. At the present moment, unless something untoward happens hereafter, this disease is definitely and specifically confined to Sarai Khalil and Trinagar. I forget the number of attacks and deaths because of gastro-enteritis during last year, but during this year there were 79 cases and 11 deaths, including that in the Sarai Khalil locality. I am not in a position to say when the well was last cleaned. But the well was sealed and there was only a hand pump. The water of that well has been sent for examination. The information that we have received about the incident is as follows:

During the present water shortage, the inhabitants of the locality resorted to the well in Masjid which has been in use for a very long time. A family living close to the Masjid is stated to have visited Bulandshehar in connection with the death of a relative who died of gastro-enteritis. The two daughters of the deceased came back to Delhi and they developed the disease on the 22nd instant. From 22nd to 24th, 79 cases have occurred with 9 deaths. So, that is the present position, and all possible precautions, as I said, like anti-cholera inoculation and so on are being undertaken. In one locality alone we have inoculated 9,000 people. In this connection, I may state that the following steps are being taken, because this is the season in which we expect cholera. The steps are:

(1) Dose of chlorination of filtered water was increased to yield about twice the quantity of the normal residual of free chlorine, that is, from 0·8 p.p.m. to 1·5 p.p.m.

(2) Alternative sources of water, such as wells, which are being extensively used as sources of drinking water, are being regularly disinfected with bleaching powder.

(3) The public has been advised to boil all drinking water—by radio announcement, beat of drums and through microphones.

(4) Anti-cholera inoculation campaign has been intensified in comparatively more vulnerable localities, *viz.*, those with sub-standard sanitary facilities.

(5) Anti-fly measures have been intensified. Insecticide (DDT|Gammaxine) spraying is in full swing in slum areas. One round of spraying has already been completed.

(6) Campaign against the sale of unwholesome and exposed foodstuffs is being vigorously carried out.

(7) All field staff has been alerted to be more vigilant to improve the standard of general sanitation in the city

(8) Dispensaries, hospitals and M.C.H. Centres have been asked to ensure adequate stocks of essential drugs to treat gastro-enteritis patients.

(9) Strict vigilance is being exercised to prevent ice and mineral water factories from using water from unsafe sources.

[Shri Karmarkar]

These are the measures that are being taken for the prevention of either cholera or gastro-enteritis.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I wanted to know why this particular well was not cleaned after the water famine.

**Shri Karmarkar:** As I said, my information is that the well was absolutely closed except for the hand pump. If it had to be cleaned, it had to be opened. I am not sure whether it was cleaned. (*Interruptions*). I do not want to say something which is not correct. I shall find out in this particular case whether the well was cleaned, whether it was found necessary to clean it, and if it was found necessary, why it was not cleaned. I shall supply the information to the House in due course. In any case, there was no complaint till the 22nd.

**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani** (New Delhi): Is the Minister aware that, apart from the areas where these cases have occurred in larger numbers, there are cases even in New Delhi of high temperature with diarrhoea. I do not know the name of the disease, because I am not a doctor. Whatever it is, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is aware that literally thousands of people living in the *bastis*, have no adequate arrangements for drinking water are drinking well water. I would like to know what arrangements he is making in the matter of providing clean drinking water to them.

**Shri Karmarkar:** Time and again, we have been telling this House that the population of Delhi has risen several times the previous number during the last seven or eight years. We are taking all possible measures. But, unfortunately, the slums are rising up everywhere. That is the main difficulty in dealing with Delhi. But, so far as I can see, the Corporation authorities have been taking all possible measures under the circumstances to check the disease. Apart from this unfortunate incidence of gastro-enteritis, the chart of Delhi can be compared with pride with the chart of any other city.

**Several Hon. Members** *rose*—

**Mr. Speaker:** Even those hon. Members who have not tabled the adjournment motion want to speak now.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi** (Hamirpur): This is an important question relating to school children.

मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि आज दिल्ली के स्कूलों में जो हमारे बहुत से बच्चे पानी पी रहे हैं वे बिना उबाला हुआ पानी पी रहे है क्योंकि उन स्कूलों में पानी के गरम करने और उबालने की कोई खास सहूलियत नही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि उन के लिये क्या सरकार ने कोई खास प्रबन्ध किया है ?

**श्री करमरकर** : जो यहां पर वैल मेंटेंड स्कूल हैं वहां तो यह प्रबन्ध किया जाता है। में चाहूंगा कि हमारे ऐजूकेशन मिनिस्टर साहब तमाम स्कूलों के पास यह हिदायत भिजवा देगे कि बच्चों को स्कूलों मे उबला हुआ पानी पीने को दिया जाये। जहां तक हमारा ताल्लुक है हम ने तो बार बार यहा पार्लियामेंट में और बाहर सब जगह लोगों को इस बात की हिदायत की है कि वे पानी को उबाल कर पियें। मुसीबत तो यह है कि बहुत से हमारे पढ़े लिखे लोग तक यह कहते हैं कि यह उबालने का कौन झंझट करे, इतने वर्ष बिना उबाला पानी पीते रहे और जिन्दा रहे। हम ने सब लोगों को यह कहा हुआ है कि पानी उबाल कर पीना चाहिये।

**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** The hon. Minister told us as to what steps the Corporation is taking to deal with the slums that are in old Delhi. I would like to know what steps are being taken by the N.D.M.C. which runs directly under his supervision. There are about 30,000 people living in the *bastis* in New Delhi who also require these facilities.

**Shri Karmarkar:** Unless the hon. Member is quite sure about her facts, I am not prepared to take it from her because we have not received any serious complaints about gastro-enteritis or any serious disease so far as New Delhi is concerned.

**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** I do not speak unless I am sure of my facts.

**Shri Karmarkar:** Then, I will have the N.D M.C. enquire into the number of ailments. If the situation requires attention, I will place all the facts before the House.

**Shri Jadhav** (Malegaon): I want to know about blood dysentery.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is really unfortunate that there are these epidemics one after another. We have serious difficulties—too much water, too litttle water and following one or the other the epidemics also. The hon. Minister has given us what all steps are being taken. I can only say—the other day it was suggested on the floor of the House by Dr. Sushila Nayar and other hon. Members that wells may be restored and cleaned—that there are difficulties felt. I have got a well in my own house and I do not know to whom I should send word. When I sent word to the municipality, they put so much oil into it that it has become impossible to drink water from that well.

I would like the hon. Minister to see that additional steps are also taken and there ought to be no well in this city which is not cleaned within a day or two at the most. There is no harm if some more money is spent because in the absence of water from outside otherwise than from the pumps, wells have to be utilised.

I hope and trust that the epidemic will not be allowed to spread and further measures will be taken. No useful purpose would be served by adjourning the House for any debate or discussion. I hope the hon. Minister will keep this House informed from time to time as to what further steps are being taken. If there are small complaints that a particular well has not been cleaned, certainly the hon Minister will see to it.

**Shri Karmarkar:** I would be grateful to hon. Members if they have any information to pass it on to us.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** The hon. Minister is asking us to go round the city.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no harm. Hon. Members must go round the city. Hon. Members forget that after all this Government is their government, whether it is one side or the other. They must also co-operate. Let them go round and see

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** He is not taking the matter seriously.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not called upon to give consent to these adjournment motions.

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**12·24 hrs.**

## CONVICTION OF TWO MEMBERS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to inform the House that I have received the following communication dated the 20th August, 1958 from the Judicial Magistrate, First Class, 4th Court, Ahmedabad:—

> "I have the honour to inform you that Sarvashri Indulal Kanaiyalal Yajnik and Karsandas Parmar, Members, Lok Sabha, were tried at the Court of the Judicial Magistrate, First Class, 4th Court, Ahmedabad, before me, on a charge of offences under sections 143 and 188, Indian Penal Code.
>
> Reasons for the conviction are as under:
>
> On the 17th August, 1958, at about 8 am., Sarvashri Indulal Kanaiyalal Yajnik and Karsandas

[Mr Speaker]

Parmar, with six others, walked on the road between the Three-gates and Premabhai-hall at Ahmedabad with the common object of disobeying the orders made under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, by the District Magistrate and the Addtional District Magistrate, Ahmedabad. These orders directed the residents, frequenters and visitors to abstain from walking etc. on the said road and other roads etc.

On the 20th August, 1958, after a trial lasting for two days, I found them guilty of offences under sections 143 and 188, Indian Penal Code and sentenced them to suffer simple imprinsonment for one month each and to pay a fine of Rs. 25 each for each of the two offences. In case of default in payment of the fine, they shall suffer simple imprisonment for a period of 7 days more for each default. Principal sentences of imprisonment to run concurrent."

**Shri Ranga** (Tenali): Have they been given 'A' class?

**Mr. Speaker**: I have no information.

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## POINT OF INFORMATION

**Shri Jadhav** (Malegaon): I had submitted a short notice question about blood dysentery and cholera. I have not yet had any reply.

**Mr. Speaker**: The hon. Member may find out from the Office. I cannot admit a short notice question unless the hon Minister is willing to accept the short notice. The hon. Member may make enquiries from the Notice Office.

**12·26 hrs.**

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

### ALL INDIA SERVICES (DEATH-CUM-RETIREMENT BENEFITS) RULES

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva)**: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951, a copy of the All India Services (Death-*cum*-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, published in the Notification No. G.S.R. 728, dated the 20th August, 1958. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-849/58.]

### NOTIFICATION UNDER THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas)**: Sir, on behalf of Shri Krishnappa, I beg to lay on the Table, under subsection (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Comodities Act, 1955, a copy of each of the following Notifications:—

(1) G.S.R. No. 685, dated the 9th August, 1958.

(2) G.S.R. No. 695, dated the 16th August, 1958.

[*Placed in Library See* No. LT-850/58.]

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## MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

**Secretary**: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:—

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6a) of rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Mineral Oils (Additional Duties of Excise and Customs) Bill, 1958, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 13th August, 1958, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1958, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th August, 1958, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

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**12·27 hrs.**

## CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

### DERAILMENT OF TRAIN AT REVELGANJ

**Shri S. M. Banerjee**: Sir, under Rule 197 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I beg to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he make a statement thereon:—

*Derailment of a Passenger train at Revelganj Station on the 19th August*, 1958

**The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram)**: At about 21-10 hours, on 19th August, 1958, while No. 85-UP Muzaffarpur-Banaras Passenger train was being received at Revelganj, a non-interlocked station on the Chhupra-Aunrihar, Metre Gauge Section of the North-Eastern Railway, it entered the Goods Shed Siding and collided with five wagons standing there. As a result of this, the engine and two vehicles next to it *viz.*, a Parcel van and a Third Class Bogie, got derailed. I regret to have to mention that 22 persons received injuries, of whom 4 were grievously hurt. All the injured persons were rendered First Aid at the site by the Guard of the train; of these 14 continued their journey by the same train. The remaining 8 were given medical attention at District Board Hospital at Revelganj, wherefrom one was discharged and 7 were transferred to the Civil Hospital at Chhupra and admitted there. One of them unfortunately expired last night. Of the remaining 6, one person was discharged on 20-8-1958 and others are reported to be progressing in the Hospital. The cost of damage to Railway property is assessed at Rs. 1,250. The Government Inspector of Railways has held his enquiry on 23rd and 24th August, 1958, into the accident and his report is awaited.

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**12·28 hrs.**

## STATEMENT RE. INVESTMENT POLICY OF LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION

**The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai)**: Sir, I am placing on the Table of the House a notification which makes applicable to the Life Insurance Corporation certain provisions of the Insurance Act. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-852/58.]

The House will recall that Section 43(2) of the Life Insurance Corporation Act lays down that these provisions would be made applicable to the Life Insurance Corporation, subject to such conditions and modifications as may be specified in the notification. The notification is in pursuance of this requirement.

One of the Sections which the notification deals with is Section 27 of the Insurance Act. It is, by now, common knowledge that this Section defines in fairly precise terms the ambit within which an insurer could operate in the matter of investments. By making it applicable to the Life Insurance Corporation, Government is laying down the framework within which the Life Insurance Corporation can

[Shri Morarji Desai]

similarly operate. In short, this modified Section contains, by and large, the investment policy which the Life Insurance Corporation will follow.

There are good reasons as to why the salutary provisions of Section 27A should be retained. Both the freedom given and the restrictions imposed by it have stood the test of time. While ensuring the safety of the policy holder's money the possibility of augmenting profits has also been afforded. For this reason Section 27A has proved satisfactory both to the insurers and the policy holders. We, therefore, have followed these principles subject only to such changes as have become necessary owing to the fact that investments which were previously spread over 240 odd companies are now held by one single Corporation. I may add that in coming to our decision we have consulted both the Corporation and the Reserve Bank of India.

Under the scheme referred to, the investments of the Life Insurance Corporation will be divided into three broad categories: firstly, the Government and approved securities which generally mean gilt-edged securities; secondly, investments approved under this very section and, thirdly, other investments. The limitations are that at least 50 per cent of the total funds should be held in Government and approved securities and not more than 15 per cent should be held in the form of other investments. The result is that about 35 per cent is held in what is known as approved investments.

To a large extent the modifications suggested in respect of approved investments are of a minor character. It was necessary to make them because of the altered conditions which obtain after nationalisation of Life Insurance. But I shall, in particular, draw attention to the modified Section 27A(4) and 27A(8). While the former enables the maximum limits of holdings of the Corporation in the ordinary shares of the companies to be raised from 10 per cent to 30 per cent of the subscribed ordinary capital (with a further provision for exceeding this limit with the prior approval of the Central Government) the latter modification will permit the Corporation to invest in private limited companies also, with the prior approval of the Central Government.

There are certain other matters pertaining to the investment policy of the Life Insurance Corporation which, I feel, are of some importance. I shall mention these briefly.

To begin with, I would like to make it quite clear that the Life Insurance Corporation shall always keep in mind the provision of Section 6(1) of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, which enjoins on it the duty of carrying on its business to the best advantage of the community. Let me be more specific. Whereas the Life Insurance Corporation will always bear in mind that its primary obligation is to its policyholders whose money it holds in trust, and will work as far as possible on business principles, it will never lose sight of the fact that, as the single largest investor in India, it has to keep before it the interests of the community as a whole. It will, therefore, invest in ventures which further the social advancement of the country. It will take no parochial view. Its funds are drawn from all over India and they will, as far as practicable considerations allow, be invested for the good of the entire country. Thus there shall be a studied diversification of its investible funds which is an essential requirement of any insurer particularly the sole insurer of a country.

I next come to the attitude which the Life Insurance Corporation should adopt in relation to the Stock Markets. There is not the slightest intention that the Life Insurance Corporation should indulge in speculation and thus take advantage of temporary fluctuations in market prices. It must necessarily invest on a long-term basis.

But this should not proclude it from certain buying and selling operations when circumstances so warrant. It will actively examine its investment portfolio from time to time and decide whether certain of its holdings are worth keeping, adding to, or disposing of. If, for instance, the Life Insurance Corporation were to sell during periods of boom and to buy during periods of depression not only would the Life Insurance Corporation gain but, indirectly, the national interest would be served by evening out the fluctuations in the stock market.

Apart from Section 27A, there are various other sections of the Insurance Act, which it is obligatory on Government to apply to the Life Insurance Corporation with such modifications and subject to such conditions as may be considered necessary. These sections deal with certain "returns" and statement of accounts which insurers have to submit to the Controller of Insurance so as to enable the latter to ensure that the interests of the policyholders are safe. These provisions are salutary ones; and, it is felt that the Life Insurance Corporation should continue to submit these returns and be governed by the sections in question. This matter has also been considered very carefully in consultation with the Life Insurance Corporation and the modifications made are of a minor character.

In conclusion, I would like to add that the investment policy which is before you has taken into account all that has been said on the subject in the recent past. Different schools of thought have advocated application of varying standards. We thus have been able to study and sift the available material and I hope the policy indicated will have the approval of the House.

**Shri Bimal Ghose** (Barrackpore): This statement may be circulated to all of us.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes; copies will be available to all hon. Members who want them.

**Shri Prabhat Kar** (Hooghly): It may be circulated to all, because it is an important policy statement regarding the investment of the L.I.C.

**Mr. Speaker:** Those hon. Members who want copies may ask and take copies from the Notice Office.

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12·36 hrs.

## ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

### ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

**Shri B. G. Mehta** (Gohilwad): I beg to move:

> "That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one Member *from among themselves to serve* as a member of the Committee on Estimates for the unexpired portion of the term ending on 30th April, 1959, *vice* Shri Mahavir Tyagi resigned."

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

> "That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one Member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Estimates for the unexpired portion of the term ending on 30th April, 1959, *vice* Shri Tyagi resigned."

*The motion was adopted.*

**12·37 hrs.**

## SEA CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

**Shri Morarji Desai:** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Sea Customs Act, 1878.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Sea Customs Act, 1878."

The motion was adopted.

**Shri Morarji Desai:** I introduce† the Bill.

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## INDIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL*

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** On behalf of Shri Karmarkar, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

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**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** I introduce the Bill.

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**12·38 hrs.**

## WORKING JOURNALISTS (FIXATION OF RATES OF WAGES) BILL—*Contd.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now resume discussion on the motion fer consideration of the Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Bill, 1958. Out of 4 hours agreed to by the House for general discussion, 1 hour and 39 minutes now remain. After general discussion is over, clause-by-clause consideration and thereafter third reading of the Bill will be taken up for which two hours are available. Shri C. R. Basappa may kindly continue his speech.

**Shri Goray** (Poona): May I request that the time may be extended by 1 hour?

**Mr. Speaker:** All right; we will have one hour more for general discussion. I hope there will not be similar requests for clause-by-clause ocnsideration also How long does the hon. Minister intend to take?

**The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda):** About half an hour.

**Mr. Speaker:** That means I will call upon the hon Minister at about 2·45 Hon. Members will kindly be brief, and the time limit will be 10 minutes. I have no objection if hon. Members want to take more time, but I do not know how many more hon. Members want to take part.

There are twelve speakers. Ten minutes to each.

**Some Hon. Members:** It is too short.

**Mr. Speaker:** Fifteen minutes. Fifteen minutes for 12 Members will come to 3 hours. Ten to 15 minutes for each.

**Shri Basappa** (Tiptur): Yesterday, we were considering the question of various objections put forward by the newspaper proprietors to the Wage Board's award and also to the decision of the Supreme Court. From these objections, we could see that they had raised not only one objection but a series of objections. Most of these objections were all rejected by the Supreme Court. They wanted to point out that it was an encroachment on the freedom of the press and also that a big restriction is put on the right to trade on their part and similar objections were raised by them. Ultimately, the Supreme Court rejected all of them and upheld only one objection and that too, to a very limited extent, in my opinion. That, as we all know, is that the capacity of the newspaper proprietors to pay these journalists was not in the forefront. That was the ground on which the Wage Boards award was set aside and therefore, we should clearly see what that objection is, and how we can meet the difficulties pointed out by the Supreme Court. Even with regard to that objection, I said, it was only to a limited extent. That is because, after all, the proprietors of these newspapers want to say that the capacity of the newspapers in the particular unit must also be taken into consideration. What probably the Supreme Court means is that the capacity of the newspaper industry to pay as a whole, in the particular region should be taken into consideration, not every unit should be taken into consideration. Because, at that rate, all kinds of papers are in our country, a large number of mushroom papers, we may even call them, because they do not represent any particular policy or anything like that, and it is not our desire to see all kinds of paper exist here without paying properly for the working journalists. Therefore, when the Supreme Court upheld this objection, that means only the industry as a whole. Even when they considered this question of the capacity of the newspapers to pay, they have taken the very argument of the Wage Board and they wanted to put it against them because they raised this question. The Wage Board authorities wanted to say that the newspaper proprietors did not come forward with all their cards before them, they did not come forward with all their accounts properly and therefore, it was a little difficult to find out exactly the wage to be fixed. When they have used that argument against these proprietors, the Supreme Court, in its wisdom has taken it as an argument that they have not at all taken into consideration these things or in the record, they could not find sufficient materials to show that they were sent there. Anyhow, we have to respect the Supreme Court and we have to abide by their decision. Let us take it. What the Government is doing is to see that the defect pointed out is completely rectified.

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† Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

With that object in view, they have appointed a Committee according to the Ordinance and according to the Bill and they are going on with the laudable object of settling the matter once for all within a short time. I do not see any objection to it. Anyhow, they are again raising these objections that this is only an official Committee, that the basis of their enquiry is not very satisfactory, and all these things are raised once again. From this it is evident that their main object is only to prolong the whole thing again for a long time, so that these working journalists or the other workers may not get the benefit for which they are aspiring all these days. About the nature of the Official Committee, they seem to be under the impression, though the hon. Minister has cleared the doubt, that it has the final power in the matter. Even from the Statement of Objects and Reasons, we can very well see that the Ordinance provided for the establishment of a special Committee for the purpose of making recommendation to the Central Government—I mark the word Central Government—in regard to the wages to be fixed for working journalists. Why should there be any fear at all? After all, when the Wage Board was there, they used to raise the objection that it has the final power, there is no other final authority at all, why should the final authority rest with the Wage Board, and so on. The Government has taken the whole issue and their effort is to settle the matter amicably to the proprietors and working journalists. They have now come forward with this objection. After all, the Committee is going to collect all the materials that were before the Wage Board, and they will call for objections to them.

[Shri Basappa]

One objection raised was that all these things were not heard and not decided. The Committee is going to call for objections. All the objections will be looked into and all the matters passed on to the Government for final decision. There should be no apprehension on the part of the proprietors.

Let us look at the question. They want the whole question to be examined thoroughly, and say that the fundamentals must be gone into, that the industry is in a big catastrophe, that there is a crisis in the industry. In the Resolution at the conference which they held time back, they have raised all these things. If we look at the position of the industry, of course, we do see that some small papers are in difficulties. So far as the big papers are concerned, they are going on quite well with their expansion programmes, and they are quite all right, even paying very high salaries to some of their relatives who are there managing the whole show. All kinds of expenditure are put in there. If we examine this expenditure correctly, we will come to know whether they are making a profit or not. I think, if all these accounts of these big papers are properly examined by our Income-tax officers more thoroughly, some of them will have to be booked seriously. There are all kinds of malpractices; newsprint is taken and it is not distributed properly and it is misused. We are hearing all these things in this House when there are questions on newsprint and its mismanagement and mis-use. At the same time, they are going on with their expansion programmes. When it is the case of small papers, there are difficulties and these difficulties are created by the big papers themselves. They are not supplying newsprint in an equitable manner to them. It is our duty to see that these small newspapers go on properly and their paper is distributed properly. That is another aspect of the whole question. We must certainly look into the recommendations made by the Press Commission and put them into practice.

This question has come from very big men in this country who held very high positions. One Member is from the Rajya Sabha. We all know Pandit Kunzru is a very great man. More than that, there is our Shri R. R. Diwakar. They have taken up this cause in such a vigorous manner. We were very sorry to hear the other day an extract from a letter written by Shri R. R. Diwakar in this respect. It was a letter in an offensive language. A responsible gentleman......

**Shri Joachim Alva** (Kanara): Can this letter be read out in order to enlighten the House?

**Shri Nanda:** It the hon. Member has in mind the reference which I made in my opening speech, then I think there is some misunderstanding. I did not make mention of the letter from Shri R. R. Diwakar. It was from the President of the IENS and the particular portion of it which I quoted was in the speech that was delivered by the President and I am just laying the whole material on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library, See* No. LT-851/58.]

**Shri Basappa:** I am very sorry Apart from that letter, from the speech that was delivered by Shri Diwakar in that conference, we can see that he has said that there is jeopardy for our independence, for our democracy, that it will recoil on our democracy and our fundamental rights are thrown to the dust. I do not exactly remember what all he said, but they all speak to the fact that he is raising all these very big questions as if they are thrown to the winds. But I wish to say that Shri Diwakar himself is connected with a very big enterprise, the Samyukta Karnatak Trust, and it was up to them to give all the materials to the wage board, and how far they have done or not still remains to be seen. When they had agreed to abide by the decision of the wage board, now to go back on that and raise all kinds of objections, I think, is something which I cannot understand. Anyhow, these great gentlemen have taken up the cause of the newspaper proprietors, and I say that it is unreasonable.

After all, these questions will have to be settled in the interests of both, for in a newspaper there are so many aspects as we know, and all the interests will have to be safeguarded. Of course, they say it is just like putting the cart before the horse, that we are not going to develop the industry but we are going to give more wages to the working journalists and all that. After all, these are parts of a big industry, and all the interests have to be safeguarded.

Anyhow, the solution of this problem is very important. It has been pending for a very long time, and various suggestions are thrown, and people say wage boards are of not much use, and that the tribunal will take a long time to decide these matters. Under these circumstances, the negotiations between the parties failed thoroughly, and therefore what else can the Government do at this juncture except to solve this problem in a more just manner, and therefore they have brought forward this Bill, and therefore it is our duty to see that it is supported, that this Bill is passed, so that the working journalists, after a long time, may have their due share.

**Shri T. N. Singh** (Chandauli): I am thankful to you to get an opportunity to discuss this very important measure, a measure which I have always looked upon as a very necessary thing, not only for the newspaper industry, not only for the working journalists, but as a whole in the interests of the press, the freedom of the press, and also freedom to carry on the trade that one wants to.

There has been a lot of unnecessary and irrelevant talk on this question outside this House, not in this House, and in the press. When a year ago, in 1956 May I believe, the wage board was appointed, it took almost a year to come to certain decisions, but the proprietors of newspapers went to law court challenging the decisions of the wage board. I can very well realise and envisage the difficulties which the wage board must have experienced, though it was presided over by a very eminent Judge of the High Court, Shri Divetia. But from what little experience I have of newspapers, newspaper concerns, as a Member of the Press Commission, and also in other capacities, I can say that the accounts of very few newspapers can stand scrutiny. I am making that statement with a full sense of responsibility. A noble soul like the Chairman of the Press Commission, Justice Rajadhyaksha, knocked his head against all kinds of pressures to get at the facts. Gentlemen as he was, even he had to threaten action under the Commissions of Inquiry Act against various newspapers who did not submit information regarding their financial position.

We had occasion to go through some of those accounts. We desisted from making any further probes into the balance sheets and accounts rendered by the newspapers. In the interests of our newspaper industry maintaining a good name, of the press and the press proprietors, we did not want to do any mud-slinging. Even then what had that Commission to say? It will be rather interesting if I refer to the manner in which the accounts were kept and maintained by some newspapers, and whether they actually showed the true state of affairs of the accounts. The Commission says:

> "In one concern, substantial advances have been made to employees on the managerial side who, in a number of cases, were also relations of the proprietor. This was not a satisfactory feature particularly since the concern was depending on loans for its entire working capital. In another concern, we noticed that large invest-

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ments had been raised for that purpose. The proprietors of the concern had obviously other interests outside the conduct of the newspaper, and the newspaper concern was utilised for handling these transactions also."

We had come across a number of cases where the funds were not being properly used. The accounts were not properly kept, and also the losses that were shown were subject to grave doubt. Even then, taking more than 160 cases we came to the conclusion that on the whole they showed a profit of one per cent. I belong to the days when most newspapers were struggling concerns. From 1925 I have been in the newspaper profession and those newspapers had a very difficult time to go through. Today's newspapers are princes compared to the beggars of those days.

**Shri Achar** (Mangalore): What about the small papers?

**Shri T. N. Singh**: I am coming to the small papers. Please have patience. The middle and the big papers were taken into account by the Press Commission and it is in respect of them that this one per cent is quoted. We analysed their accounts. If you see how men are employed, men who belong to their relations' families are put on the role of employees and draw their salaries, certainly there will be loss in the concern. In one case, when I was a Member of the Commission and the Commission had just reported, I happened to meet one of the newspaper proprietors, a very eminent person who often goes on delegations abroad. I had heard something and I casually told him: "What is it, I think, the income-tax people are after you. You have not hidden your income and I suppose the accounts submitted were correct?" That was some 1,000 miles away from Delhi. When I returned to Delhi, a few days after that same gentleman came and asked: "Can you tell me what is the position? I am very anxious. I shall be very grateful if you can help me." I said: "What is it, are you really guilty of that? I just brought it to your notice. Why are you so upset? Have you got a guilty conscience?" He went away.

I know something of accounts also, and I can say that if anybody had gone into the details of the accounts that the Press Commission got from them, many of the newspaper proprietors who are looking very righteous today and passing all kinds of resolutions, will cut a very sorry figure. I am glad that as a result of the Supreme Court's verdict, the capacity of many newspapers will have to be decided. I wish they will make all the accounts and everything available. One of the difficulties in our way has been, whether in the Press Commission or the wage board, getting at the correct accounts. I would urge the hon. Minister of Labour that if this Act which he is passing will not enable a greater probe into the economic position of the newspapers, he had better strengthen it, give more powers, call for all papers, the duplicate and triplicate books of accounts if necessary. Drastic powers should be given. Then only will the actual state of the profession be known. I doubt very much whether it will be possible for any committee of enquiry to go into these details and give a correct verdict, unless all accounts are made available.

Then, Sir, what will happen? Somebody may put an appeal in a court and the court may rightly hold that all the accounts were not available, how can they judge the capacity. Is the noble profession of journalism to be held to ransom in this manner year after year? Their demand for a decent living wage has been before the country and this resistance I cannot understand. If one were only to examine the kind of people who are employed in newspapers in Delhi or outside, he will find that all kinds of persons are there on the employees' list and money is being wasted. The real journalists, the working journalists, the poor journalists do not get a decent salary.

Coming to another aspect, when people talk of the freedom of the Press, freedom to carry on trade and vocation, guaranteed under articles 14 and 19 of the Constitution, I am reminded of some of the personal experiences of some of my journalist friends. When the Press Commission was sitting, some persons, who were members of the staff of some newspapers had the courage to come and tell us something. Promptly action was taken against them. There is the well-known case of Mr. Vinay Kumar Sinha. He was transferred and ultimately the poor man is no more there.

Similarly, there were other things. An accusation may be made that I am against all the big capitalists. But there was Justice Rajadhyaksha. He even had to issue a stern warning to the newspaper proprietors who appeared before him that the journalists who appeared before him should not be victimised. He did take up certain cases; the records are there, anybody can verify them. That has been the position.

Now this is not a new development. If I may be permitted to quote from my own experience, I was given notice to get out of a newspaper run by a Maharaja, formerly run by the Congress. The notice served on me was: you are getting—shall I make a comment, of the very high salary—"of Rs. 60" and therefore the paper cannot afford to pay you.

**Shri Prabhat Kar** (Hoogly): As a measure of economy?

**Shri T. N. Singh:** As a measure of economy I was retrenched. Then I had occasion to serve another paper here in Delhi a very prominent paper.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think it has proved a blessing in disguise!

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Owned by a very prominent businessman of this country. As a journalist I was also a follower of Gandhiji and working among labour and other people.

**Acharya Kripalani** (Sitamarhi): You were.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** And now I am yours, Gandhiji's pupil.

Then I happened to be the Secretary of a labour union here. There were the usual strike in mills, as it happened elsewhere. The newspapers said no news about that shall appear. I was the sub-editor and there were my fellow reporters. They gave me some news, as sub-editor it came to me. It appeared in the papers. After three or four days I was summoned before the great Almighty and asked: what are these strikes, can't you settle this? I said you talk it over with the representatives of labour, I will also be there and then we shall discuss. I had nothing to do with the appearance of the news. After another fortnight I received a letter from the Editor: you make your choice, you can either continue as Secretary of the labour union, or you can continue as a member of the staff; you cannot be both. What I was doing during my spare time was no concern of his. Naturally I resigned. I said I would prefer to remain a starving public worker in a labour union than work and retain my job in that paper.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** What was your salary?

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Rs. 125. Then I had to go.

This is the freedom of the Press, freedom of opinion and freedom to carry on ones trade. If such people come and say that these are being jeopardised by the very laudable ordinance, which the Government promulgated, I say let Government take all such criticisms. They will rise higher in the estimate of the people; they will go up. People will have

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more confidence in them. They may lose the confidence of the big capitalists, but the poor and the starving will have love, affection and admiration for them. For that reason I welcome this measure.

Then there was a recent case. He was the correspondent of a paper in the South, a local correspondent. He took some part in helping the working journalists. Promptly he was called and asked that he must not do it, or his connection with the paper would be served or terminated.

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** 'Association' would be better.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** 'Association' is the correct word. That was done.

This is what is happening. Is freedom of the Press, freedom of expression, meant only for those who can afford to spend a few lakhs and start a newspaper? Is it not meant for the poorer man, who works for his living, who carries on the noblest of the professions, probably the oldest of the professions in the world, that of carrying the good message to all.

**Shri Ranga** (Tenali): Since the days of Narada.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** I would therefore very strongly urge on the Government and every section of this House: let us stand as one man united behind this very necessary measure and support it to the full, make it a little more effective where it is lacking in certain respects and pass it with as much speed as possible. Only at this juncture I felt that our Constitution-makers were very wise in providing the article for the promulgation of ordinances when such emergencies arise. I also congratulate the Government for having taken the courage of promulgating the ordinance.

I would say only one small thing and sit down. I do not know how to put it. I feel it is not proper for people who have been heads of States to get themselves involved in these controversies. There was the case which was going on. It is perfectly true that there should be freedom to carry on one's trade and profession, and one can argue a case if one happens to be a lawyer. But I personally felt then that it was not a very desirable convention that was set up. Again, we find another Head of a State has taken cudgels on behalf of a section of people called the newspaper proprietors. When a man becomes a Head of a State, he has nothing to do either with proprietors or with the have-nots or the have's. If somebody who is above all this....

**Shri Ranga:** Why should the hon. Member bring all that in?

**Shri T. N. Singh:** I wish it had not happened.

**Shri Goray:** But he himself was a proprietor.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** I would very much like that such personalities need not come into such controversies, and I very much regret that.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would urge hon. Members not to make any references either on the one side or the other to Heads of States. Whatever they might have said, when once somebody makes a reference to it, naturally, another must criticise it. So, let their speeches not be quoted either for the one side or for the other. We shall try to avoid that. Whatever may have been said already, certainly I hope and trust that the Heads of States will also not put themselves into controversial issues.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** That was my object.

**Mr. Speaker:** Anyhow, let us not bring them in here. (*Interruptions*).

**The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar):** If a person is no more a Head of a State, how does he come in? Supposing he is an *ex*-Head of a State, what would be the position?

**Mr. Speaker:** Was the statement made by him as Head of State?

**Dr. Keskar:** I think there is a mistake.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** The reason why I raised this was this. After one has become a Head of a State, one does enjoy a certain position.

**Shri Ranga:** That does not mean that he should be constitutionally judged throughout.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** When a person has become President or anything like that, he tries to avoid being involved in controversies of this nature. It was from that point of view that I suggested that it may be better if we could avoid such things. If we cannot avoid it....

**An Hon. Member:**. They can avoid it.

**Mr. Speaker:** All that I can say for purposes of our debate is that so long as any person is a Head of a State—whether the Head of this Union or the Head of any particular State—let his conduct as such Head of State be not brought in here. Whether he continues to be the Head of a State or not, let not his conduct as Head of State be discussed here.

**Shri Ranga:** This is after he has ceased to be Head of State.

**Mr. Speaker:** His conduct during the period of his office as Head of State shall not be called in question here, even though he might have ceased to be the Head of a State. After ceasing to be the Head of a State, or before he became a Head of a State, he was only an ordinary citizen and if he made any statements, there could be no objection, if there is reference to such statements.

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** That is what we are referring to.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** We are referring to the conduct after he has ceased to be Head of a State.

**Mr. Speaker:** The fact that he was at some period Head of a State need not be brought in here, and need not be referred to at all here. Instead, hon. Members can say so-and-so had said so, or that any big citizen in this country had said so.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** What my hon. friend wants is that we should lay down healthy conventions as to whether a Head of a State, after retirement, should mix himself in the bread-and-butter politics.

**Mr. Speaker:** He may himself become a proprietor or even a working journalist. God alone knows. Every day, the *ex*-head of a State does not get a pension; what is he to do? Is he to die of starvation?

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** In making a reference to any particular individual, if it is said that he is an *ex*-Governor or that he was a Governor, it is not in any way going to prejudice his status or anything else.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let there be absolutely no reference to his Governorship. It need not be referred to at all. Instead, it can be said that so-and-so has made a statement.

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** After all, when you describe a man, you have to describe his status.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not necessary. Let us be clear about this matter. In regard to the Head of a State, his conduct as such Head of State shall not be called in question here....

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** We are not doing that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Whether he continues to be the Head of a State or not; if the conduct relates to the period while

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he was a Head of a State, that shall not be called in question here. That is the first thing.

Secondly, when his conduct before he became the Head of a State or after he ceased to be the Head of a State is referred to, let not the fact of his having been the Head of a State be referred to here.

**Shri Ranga**: He should be treated as a citizen.

**Mr. Speaker**: Let him be treated as an ordinary citizen. But why should we call him an *ex*-Governor and then begin to abuse him? It is very wrong. I would not allow it.

**Shri T. N. Singh**: But there is one constitutional point. Under the Act passed by Parliament, we are giving pensions to certain *ex*-Heads of States.

**Some Hon. Members**: No.

**Shri T. N. Singh**: Yes. (*Interruptions*) Only to the President. We are giving pensions to a certain *ex*-Head of the entire State.

**Mr. Speaker**: We are not questioning it. Enough has been said about journalists. Leaving aside the question whether the Heads of States should receive pension or not, I am not here called upon to adjudge whether a pensioner can take part in these things or criticise the Government, as if all pensioners are keeping quiet, and they cannot enter into politics and begin to abuse Government also. There is no meaning in referring to Heads of States or *ex*-Governors and so on. If any person is elsewhere, and he is not in a position to defend himself, apart from his being Head of a State, how does any reference to him come in here? Unless there is a report which we are discussing and we want to discredit the statement or the evidence of any particular person, he need not be called in question here. I do not know how it is relevant at all and why it has been allowed. Let there be no reflection made upon any citizen of the country unless it has got a direct bearing on this, and as far as the Bill is concerned, he gave evidence before the Select Committee, and any hon. Member wants to say that his evidence ought not to be accepted, he has got interest one way or the other and so on.

**Shri Bimal Ghose** (Barrackpore): He made a reference to it. That is why we are referring to it.

**Mr. Speaker**: Who made a reference to it?

**An Hon. Member**: The Minister.

**Mr. Speaker**: Let him be making a hundred references. A number of people may be making references. Why should we be worried? Are we now saying that a thousand people have said this or that or made a reference to this or that? Independently, we are in a position to judge on the merits, irrespective of the personalities, unless all hon. Members are trying to be carried away by what a particular individual says. Therefore, let us avoid references to individuals.

**Shri Prabhat Kar**: He is a party to the dispute in respect of which the Bill has been brought. And reference has been made by the Labour Minister to the speeches and the letters of the I.E.N.S; and he being a party, naturally, we have to take into consideration the fact that one party is going it. And we are not charging him as Governor but only for what he is doing, because we expect that such a respectable gentleman should behave differently in such matters. That is why we are saying this.

**Shri Ranga**: After he has given up his seat of office as Governor, he becomes an ordinary citizen like anyone of us. *It should be open to him to* express his views or to take any stand that he likes. It is open to us also to condemn him. It is not necessary for us to make a grievance of the fact that he had been Governor.

**Shri Prabhat Kar**: We are making no grievances.

**Shri T. N. Singh**: I did not make any grievance of that.

**Mr. Speaker**: I was not here to hear what reference was made regarding that individual.

**Shri Prabhat Kar**: He was chairman of the meeting or the conference of newspaper editors, and he has sent a letter to the Labour Minister, which was placed before Parliament.

**Mr. Speaker**: If any reference has been made to any individual for the purpose of strengthening the one side or the other, it is open to the other side to say that such kind of criticism ought not to have been placed. But in that connection, let no reference be made either by the one side or the other to his having been Governor or the Head of a particular State.

**Shri Goray**: Though, usually, we the Members on this side of House, are allergic to any Ordinances, I think this is the one occasion when we can say that this Ordinance was called for and was opportune. The Bill that is before us seeks to replace the Ordinance of June, 1958.

The genesis of this particular Bill that is before us dates back to 1952 when the Indian Federation of Working Journalists met in Calcutta.

At that time, the newspaper industry was in a state of chaos and because of the representations made by the Working Journalists' Federation, a Press Commission was appointed in 1952. The Report of the Press Commission is, I should say, a monumental work, and perhaps in the history of journalism in this country, it will always occupy a honoured place. This Report gave rise to the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) Act of 1955. After that, a Wage Board was appointed with Mr. Justice Divatia as Chairman in 1956. The Wage Board came out with its recommendations in 1957. As soon as these recommendations came out, they were challenged by some of the newspaper establishments in this country. They went to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court gave its final verdict in March, 1958.

A good many points were raised by the newspaper establishment which approached the Supreme Court—as many as 11. But it is to be noted that out of these 11 points, all except one were negatived. The one and the only point admitted by the Supreme Court, on which the Court held that the decisions of the Wage Board were not valid was that the wage scales recommended were not related to the capacity of the newspapers concerned.

The newspapers establishments which had approached the Supreme Court had referred to all sorts of violations; they had said that article 14 of the Constitution was violated, they had said that article 19 was violated, implying thereby that freedom of the Press and freedom of trade were jeopardised.

**13·23 hrs.**

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

All this was not accepted by the Supreme Court. Therefore, when the Supreme Court found fault with only one of the recommendations made by the Wage Board, the Government came out with this Ordinance which tried to meet the objections raised by the Court. The provisions of that Ordinance have now been incorporated in this Bill too.

If we look at clause 4 of the Bill, we find that provision has been made to meet all possible objections that could be raised against the Wage

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Board decisions. We find in clause 4(2)(b):

> "the rates of wages which, in the opinion of the person making the representation, would be reasonable, having regard to the capacity of the employer to pay the same or to any other circumstance, whichever may seem relevant to the person making the representation in relation to his representation".

Then in sub-clause (4) of the same clause, we find:

> "In making any recommendations to the Central Government, the Committee shall have regard to all the matters set out in sub-section (1) of section 9 of the Working Journalists Act."

Therefore, one more objection that was raised has been met Finally, in sub-clause (5), they say:

> "The Committee may, if it thinks fit, take up for consideration separately groups or clauses of newspaper establishments, whether on the basis of regional classification or on any other basis, and make recommendations from time to time in regard to each such group or class".

One fails to understand what the objection of the newspaper proprietors is to this Bill. This Ordinance and the Bill which seeks to replace the Ordinance have not come out of the blue like a bolt. This maker has been there for a long time. Discussions have been taking place right from the time of the Report of the Commisison. In the Report of the Commission, they had recommended certain measures. After that, there were consultations between Government, proprietors of newspapers and working journalists. Afterwards we find that when they approached the Supreme Court—even when the Supreme Court was seized of this matter—there were negotiations going on. After the Supreme Court gave its decision and the Ordinance was promulgated, even at that stage, discussions were not barred and we hear that every time the representatives of the newspapers were consulted. To a certain extent, they had agreed; they had committed themselves to a particular course of action and after the negotiations were over and conclusions reached, they again went back on their word and told Government that they could not accept what had been recommended.

I do not know why the hon. Minister was so modest in his attack on the newspaper proprietors Immediately after this Ordinance was promulgated—about three weeks afterwards—the newspaper proprietors held a conference in Delhi. The pamphlet that they have brought out describes this conference as a "unique conference". They go on to say in their resolution that this particular Ordinance was "objectionable, unconstitutional and unprecedented". These are the three words they have used to describe this Ordinance. After describing the Ordinance in this manner, I won't be surprised if these people again go to the Supreme Court. A hint to that effect has been dropped by one of the big people in our country who inaugurated the conference. I am referring to the speech made by Dr Kunzru. He has stated in his speech—this is on page 10 of the pamphlet—as follows:

> "If there is any further litigation, I do not know what would happen".

I am really sorry that a great man of Dr. Kunzru's stature should have walked into the parlor of these gentlemen. He should not have said this, that 'if there is further litigation, I do not know what would happen'. I am quite sure that there is going to be further litigation, because successive attempts of Government to come to some agreed formula or to arrive at a particular agreed solution have always been turned down by the newspaper proprietors.

Now, they are saying that the Ordinance and the Bill go much beyond the recommendations of the Press Commission. But I would like to ask these gentlemen whether even the recommendations of the Press Commission were acceptable to them. As soon as the recommendations were out, they started a campaign against them. They said it was not possible for them to accept them, that Government were trying to interfere, that this was an encroachment on freedom of the Press and the rights of free trade were being curtailed. All sorts of accusations and charges were levelled against the suggestions in the Press Commission's report.

I think what they really want is to prolong this state of suspense. They do not want seriously or sincerely to have this problem solved. They have said that they want an inquiry *de novo*. I do not know what remains to be inquired into. We had the Press Commission. Then we had the Wage Board. Then they went in appeal to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court investigated so many things. Now, when Government have come out with this Bill, they again say that there must be an inquiry *de novo*. What has to be inquired into? The point as regards capacity to pay has been laboured often. After all, what is this capacity to pay? In their Report itself, the Press Commission have said that when they tried to investigate it, it was very difficult to find out the truth. What they have said is not to the credit of the newspaper proprietors at all. I would like to read out only a couple of passages, small paragraphs. The Commisison says:

> "It has been represented to us that some managements of papers have followed certain practices that have increased the cost of production and thus reduced the profit available for distribution as bonus. The methods are mainly—
>
> (i) to employ a number of persons, mostly relations of the employer on high salaries. In some cases, an excessive number of such posts are created on the managerial side and the resources of the concern are thus drained away."

That is number 1. Then, secondly they say—

> "To pay excessive commissions to concerns in which the main shareholders or directors are interested. These payments may be by way of commission for purchase of newsprint or acting as sole selling agents, sole advertising agents or managing agents, and sometimes even without any business justification at all."

These are the accusations made against these concerns by....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member must soon conclude. The hon. Speaker announced that no hon. Member can get more than 15 minutes and he has instructed me like that. The hon. Member began at 1.19......

**Shri Goray:** I will just finish in two or three minutes, Sir.

Having said this, what I wanted to point out was that the position of the newspaper proprietors is not at all a just one. It is just a cantankerous attempt to prolong this stage of suspence and indecision.

Let me come to the news agencies, agencies like the P.T.I. for instance. The Press Commission had also some hard words to say about these agencies.

What they are doing is this. Long drawn out negotiations have been going on. The employees of the P.T.I. have represented their case and they have asked for revision of their scales. But the answer they have got to their demands from the people who are in charge of the P.T.I. is that it is not possible for them to meet their

[Shri Goray]

demands because they are running this agency at a loss.

It has been pointed out by the Press Commission that many of the Directors of the P.T.I. are in their private capacity proprietors of newspapers. The agency does not want to raise the subscription rates. After waiting for so many years the employees of the P.T.I. have notified the management that they should either give them some sort of interim relief or they will have no other alternative but to go on strike. Such a situation which we should all like to avoid becomes inevitable when the newspaper proprietors take a stand which is not at all reasonable.

Government must do something about it and see to it that we must have an answer to the challenge that these people are throwing at us. I wonder whether this Bill, if it were to become an Act—as it would very soon—would be in a position to meet this challenge because the whole thing would be once again in a melting pot. Therefore I would request the Government to see to it that the fate of the working journalists is not kept hanging in the balance for a long period of time. We will have to put a stop to this somewhere. Government will have to tell the proprietors that their patience is at an end and that they are not going to entertain any more appeals or any other attempts to leave the fate of the journalists hanging fire.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani.

**Shri Joachim Alva** (Kanara) *rose*—

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I thought Shri Joachim Alva was not in his proper seat.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** I am sorry, Sir; if it was a question of getting up from my seat I would have done so.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** If he had got up in his proper seat he would have been called first.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** I think I will get this honour later.

**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani** (New Delhi): Sir, I thank you for the lucky chance I have got.

This is one of the Bills which is having universal support from all sections of this House. This is very gratifying because Government is having this unique privilege of getting the approval on the measure from all sections. That shows how right this Bill is. This Bill is now replacing the Ordinance that was passed in last June. Under the Ordinance a committee has been appointed to go into the question of the rate of wages to be fixed for working journalists and to make recommendations to the Central Government.

Normally, we would have disapproved of an Ordinance. We consider an Ordinance an encroachment upon the rights of the Parliament. But this is one case where all of us wholeheartedly support the action of Government and we think that Government had no other way but to take this strong step.

The question of the conditions of wages of the journalists is a long standing one. This problem was mooted both by the Press and the public for a number of years. At last the Government of India appointed the Press Commission. The Press Commission also submitted its report in 1954. After that another two years elapsed before the Wage Board was appointed and the Wage Board submitted its report in 1957. I am reminding you of the years to show that quite a long time has gone and the whole procedure has been rather slow, if anything.

Then the decision of the Wage Board was challenged before the Supreme Court on several grounds. One of the grounds—an astounding one—was that it was an encroachment on the freedom of the Press, another that it was an unreasonable restriction of the right of trade. To invoke this principle of encroachment on the freedom of the Press at this juncture looks to me like a parody. The Indian Press has fought for its freedom for many years but this is not the time to take shelter under this principle in order to deny the journalists their just rights.

The Supreme Court rejected all the grounds that were oontended before them except one. Only this one round was allowed that the records did not show that the Wage Board had fully assessed the capacity of the newspapers to pay, as provided under section 9 of the Working Journalists Act. On this sole ground all the decisions of the Wage Board were invalidated. This was naturally a very great blow to the journalists and it created considerable unrest among them. There was more than unrest, Sir, because some of the proprietors and publishers, taking advantage of the Supreme Court's decision withdrew the recent wage rise they had given. They even went so far as to try to recover the back payments already made. Therefore, the situation was really very serious. You must also take into account that there was practically a wage freeze since the appointment of the Press Commission because the matter was under dispute and every day people were expecting some decision. It was, therefore, quite justified on the part of the journalists to be agitated over the situation that had arisen. And, it was perfectly justified on the part of Government to take stock of the situation and act promptly and try to give some relief to the journalists. The Government showed exemplary patience in this case. They made three attempts to bring about some kind of amicable settlement between the journalists and the proprietors. The first two attempts proved failures because of the intransigence of the proprietors. The third attempt was the appointment of a special sub-committee of the Cabinet with the Home Minister as Chairman, Dr. Keskar, Shri G. L. Nanda and Shri A. K. Sen as members. They went into the question and tried to bring about an adjustment between the two parties. The Chairman, the Home Minister, made it clear that the basis of negotiations should be the acceptance of the general scheme of things, negotiations were to be made only to modify the wage structure in order to give relief to the journalists. Negotiations went on and both parties were consulted.

As a matter of fact, certain proposals were made by the Home Minister which were to give relief to the proprietors—to some proprietors even to the extent of 30 per cent. They all agreed. Then they said they would consult their parent bodies. After consulting the parent bodies, they totally went back upon the agreement; they repudiated the negotiations. They took a stand which was not only a pre-Supreme Court stand but a pre-Press Commission stand. They took a very recalcitrant attitude. So, what was the Government to do? Government had no other way; they tried their level best to have some settlement. Settlement having failed, Government had to take the step of issuing the Ordinance.

Let us take the question of the capacity to pay. Only on this sole question, the Supreme Court has given a judgment against the Wage Board decision. Did the Wage Board not take into consideration the capacity to pay? The very fact that the Wage Board had allowed different scales of pay for the same kind of work in different papers goes to show that the income of the papers had been taken into consideration. Perhaps the Wage Board did not so fully and meticulously go into the question as to satisfy

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the Supreme Court. But the Wage Board had gone into that question as far as it was possible.

Suppose the Wage Board's recommendation fell short on this point, who was to blame? Was the Wage Board alone to blame? As had already been ably pointed out by Shri T. N. Singh, the publishers and proprietors took recourse to every method in order not to reveal their true financial condition to the Wage Board. There was manipulation of accounts. The chain papers were in a very convenient position. They would refer the members of the Board, if they happened to be in Calcutta, to their office in Bombay; and if they were in Bombay, they would refer them to Delhi. In that way, they evaded placing their books before the Wage Board. We know that there are trusts who have got money enough to make endowments and to give in charity but not money enough to pay fair wages to their journalists. The other day Shri Khadilkar gave some instances of newspapers whose proprietors had enough profit to start new units but not enough money to pay wages to the journalists.

There are other vagaries to which a reference had been made. There are some chain newspapers. Let us say that there is one unit which does not make a profit but that unit may have one man as editor who is paid Rs. 5,000. But the other units which make a profit, the other units of the same chain, have men as editors and journalists who are paid a pittance. Fixation of salary depends upon the whims of the proprietors. The proprietor fixes the salary taking political or other conditions into consideration rather than the consideration of fair wage. It is not justice or fair play. Such appointments are often made. So, these go to show the chaotic condition prevailing in the matter of payment to journalists. I want to draw attention to something even more serious. This whole matter shows that the attitude of the proprietors is based on commercial ethics; their whole ethics is commercial ethics; their whole morality is commercial morality. If we look at this problem, not from the narrow point of view of fair wage to journalists, but from a wider point of view, what do we see? What has happened in the last 10-15 years. Who have invaded the Press and what type of people have been enable to publish papers? Are they concerned with journalism or with the welfare of the people? No. They are not concerned with the welfare of the people; they are not journalists themselves. They have taken up these papers merely as commercial ventures. Just as a commercial magnate may run a shoe factory or a textile mill, in the same way, he runs the Press merely with the object of getting some financial gain. Some of them have become very clever and they feel that if they own a paper, it is political power which they can wield. So, such people control press either from profit motive or with the idea of wielding political power. A new class is gaining ascendancy in the words of Indian Press.

Indian Press has been associated with top-ranking patriots like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Tilak and Gandhiji; all these people had been associated with the Press in some way or other. The tradition of the Indian Press is one of patriotism and idealism and it has played a very great and noble part in our struggle for freedom. It has been the guardian of public welfare and civil liberties. The old time proprietors used to be journalists themselves and worked for a pittance in order to build up a paper. A different atmosphere prevailed at that time. It was very difficult to know who was the proprietor or employer and who was the employees. Gradually, this atmosphere has changed. Indian Press has got a high role to play. In this new democracy, the Press is the Fourth Estate; it is the guardian of our right and liberties. Is the Indian Press able to play this great role?

What has happened in these 10 or 15 years? Has editorial freedom increased? Shri T. N. Singh has told us about this. The journalists have to depend upon the proprietors. Freedom and independence of the Press is throttled. Our journalists do not function in an independent way. This question of pay is a minor question compared to the independence and freedom of the journalists and editors.

The journalists have put up a very good fight for their economic security in that we all support them. But economic security alone is no guarantee for freedom or independence of the journalist. That is a more serious matter in a democracy and it is a matter which deserves the attention not only of the journalists but of all of us who are interested in public welfare. I am very sorry to find that even trusts and other proprietory organisations which should be imbued with the old tradition and which have had a past history and tradition are now borrowing their ethics from their commercial compatriots. Shri Khadilkar quoted instances to show as to how they are now treating their journalists and in what way they are denying the journalists their fair wages.

I should like to refer to another matter to which attention has already been drawn by previous speakers. At the conference of the newspaper publishers held in Delhi last month, very brave words were used and the leaders of the conference condemned the Government roundly. They raised various objections. One very important objection was to the fixation of wage by statute. They said that this was a matter for a judicial tribunal and so it should be decided by judicial adjudication. But even the Supreme Court did not accept their contention in this regard. The Supreme Court had pointed out that all over the world fixation of wage by Wage Board was considered a better method. It was also pointed out by the hon. Labour Minister in his introductory speech, that the alternative suggested by the owners and proprietors was such that it would have unduly delayed matters and raised too many disputes. They have also criticised the official character of the new committee. They even criticised the restriction of wage enquiry to journalists only as very limited in scope. There is a saying in Bengali that if the material aunt shows greater affection for the child than the mother, then you have to suspect it. These proprietors have become so conscious of the right of all the people working in the Press that they demand the widening of the scope of the enquiry. The cat is out of the bag when you come to the resolution which says that the enquiry should be held *de novo*. Why? Because of one small point the Wage Board's decision have been invalidated by the Supreme Court. If this one little point needs to be reconsidered by this new committee, should the entire findings of the Wage Board be considered as *ultra vires?* Should their entire recommendation be thrown away? Why do they want an enquiry *de novo?* It is merely to delay matters. The sentence quoted by Shri Goray just now shows that Mr. Kunzru is perhaps thinking of again going to the Court after this committee gives its decision. Therefore, it is clear that the proprietors have shown an uncompromising and intransigent attitude. The Government therefore is perfectly justified in taking this step and it has our wholehearted support. There is no time to go into the details. We accept all the clauses and we hope that this Bill will be of great benefit to the journalists and will put an end to the dispute that is raging before the country for a long time.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Sir, the average Indian working journalist is a devoted, patriotic and hardworking man, devoted to the ideals of nationalism. He can hold his own against the best in the world whether it be London, New York, Washington, Tokyo or Peking. But the emoluments he gets are not worth mentioning, he cannot stand against the worst in the world in the matter of emoluments though he can stand against the best in the world in the matter of ability and his devotion to work. The average Indian journalist is a frustrated young man and he does not get what he should really get, while a young man of his age gets the best of jobs in other fields of life and is able to take an executive's salary in four figures in other avocations of life. If an average Indian journalist loses his job, he has to literally walk the streets. He does not know what is the morrow. Mostly he does not get married, and if he gets married, woe be unto his wife and children. He is so much devoted too his profession that he will not think of going . . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I was told the hon. Member was also a journalist

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Yes, Sir; I am also perhaps, describing my own woes, so it does not matter. If he loses his job, he will not go to any other profession, because he has been so much devoted to his own profession that he never thinks of going elsewhere even though he may obtain better emoluments. That means he has to go out of his job once for all. Once a journalist always a journalist, and in that mission of life he refuses to go elsewhere.

I have described to you in brief, Sir, what is the fate, what is the temperament, what are the objectives of an average Indian journalist There was a time when this profession was considered very noble. It had a mission in life, but it has now been turned into all a matter of commission, and the commission is turned out by the lords of the profession. There are quite a number of Shylocks in Indian journalism. There are a few lords whose income or the gross revenue of their papers runs into lakhs and lakhs of rupees And, rightly, the Wage Board divided them into five or six classes—there may be even eight classes. The A class papers had a gross revenue of over Rs. 25 lakhs, the B class papers had over Rs. 12·5 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs, the C class papers had over Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 12·5 lakhs, the D class papers had over Rs. 2·5 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs and E class had Rs. 2·5 lakhs and below.

It was right that the Wage Board made these five distinctions. Lots of material were presented before the Indian Press Commission in regard to the financial state of all the newspapers, yet the hon. Supreme Court gave a dog's chance to the proprietors on the ground that their capacity has not been enquired into. The newspaper proprietors put forth before the Press Commission any amount of material in regard to their capacity, so much so that my hon. friend, Shri T N Singh, said that if they had uttered lies or they had not told the truth about their own profession, some of them at least rightly deserved to be behind prison bars. Perhaps, the Government want to be very lenient and they may not take all those drastic steps.

The Government of India have done their best to bring forth as many measures as possible to help the working journalists, to put the profession on its feet. First came the Press Commission, then came the Wage Board and then the Ordinance. Then it went before the Supreme Court, and the Government of India has not let grass to grow under its feet, it has brought this Bill in time. I think the Government of India can solve this problem in 24 hours if it means to do it. The hon. Minister is a well meaning man, so also the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. If the Union Government pulled itself up and rose to the occasion, this entire problem of journalism, the Press Trust of India, the question of journalists, the status of the proprietors and Working Journalists, everything could be solved in 24 hours. Somehow or other my own feeling is that the Government of India, despite all the grand, great and magnanimous intention of the hon. Prime Minister, as a team, perhaps, have not been able to pull up and settle this problem, because their is always 'pressurisation' from outside. The pressure is very great, but that pressure has not succeeded with the masses of India. The masses of India, whether you like it or not, take their own course. Whatever the newspapers may write, they make up their mind in their own way and say: "We shall pull this way in the election." The masses of India today make their own decisions, and they refuse to be dictated even by newspapers, just as in Britain on a critical occasion they said to the lords of the Press: "Nothing doing, we shall have our own way", and they voted as they liked.

Now let us see what is the kind of payment that they have been making. Before going to any other point, I would first like to take up the question of the Press Trust of India. The newspaper lords have been manipulating, have been intriguing in such a manner that they have reduced the Press Trust of India to shambles today. The Press Trust of India should be a powerful body, should be the pride of the land, the pride of the newspapers, the pride of journalism, but it has taken a secondary place That is because the lords of Indian journalism sit on the Board of Directors, manipulate votes as they like, bring in shareholders as they like, pass decrees as they like and the really capable, able, patriotic and devoted journalists who are serving in the Press Trust of India, all over the land do not get to decay and be demoralised. They can be fired out of their jobs; they can be hired and fired out of their jobs as the lords like.

Now I come to another question. What do the big newspapers do in regard to medical amenities for working journalists? What do they do about their housing amenities and about other things? Here is *The Times of India*, one of the most prosperous units of the land having a gross revenue of over Rs. 2 crores. If you ring them up at two o'clock in the morning and ask, you get the working journalist doing his noble duty. I asked him once where he was living and he said: "My house is 40 miles away from Bombay." There is no proper place for him to sleep. That is the state of affairs in *The Times of India*. I asked him: "What about your breakfast?" He said: "Nothing doing." These are amenities which the newspaper barons must provide for the working journalists. They must be given a comfortable room to sleep after their work in the night, and they must be able to have their wash in the morning, have their breakfast for nominal charges and go home. Even these amenities are not provided by the biggest newspapers of the land.

Then, how does *The Statesman*, a British newspaper carry the first prize for its printing? They do not merely possess the best rotaries, they have men who oil the machines in a perfect way. I learn that in *The Statesman* they never had a strike, though it is a British paper, with blue-blooded boys in its establishments. In *The Statesman*, in the sense that there are only a few Indians as high grade executives and most of them are Europeans. Whatever that may be, I am only concerned with the technical production. I am also concerned as to why there have been no strikes. Why is it that there was a strike in *The Times of India* and also in *The Hindu*? I do not know about other papers. Why is it that three papers. The total income of the single British owned paper in India, and they are also able to run away with the hound, in the sense that it is able to produce the best copy paper

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in India, though we may not like some of its political contents?

What are the revenues of these three major papers—*The* Hindu, *The Times of India*, and the other one? There is the *Free Press Journal*. It had to undergo any amount of trouble. I remember when it was started. It was started on the hey day of 1930 movement. I would like to pay my humble tribute to Mr. Sadanand, who suffered from a terrible malady of elephantiasis, who walked about in the town, in India, in the world with that disease and wanted to start a news-agency. He worked very hard, and the *Free Press* had to undergo lots of difficulties. The hand of the British came heavily on him. Over a lakh of rupees was demanded as security. The *Free Press* had to face a lot of trouble compared to *The Times of India* and *The Hindu*.

Let us consider the revenues of these three papers. The total income of *The Times of India* is Rs. 2,44,43,165, and they have shown a loss of Rs. 11,877—thank God they have not shown more. They have got now five papers—the *Film Fare, Evening News of India, Illustrated Weekly* and also the *Nava Bharat Times*. And the glorious salary that they are giving to the Editor of the *Nava Bharat Times*,—he should have been started on at least Rs. 1,000 —an A class paper. The Editor was started on Rs. 300, Rs. 153 as dearness allowance and Rs. 50 as other allowances, making a total of Rs. 503. The Wage Board said: "Nothing doing. Pay him Rs. 1,250." How can you pay the editor of a daily, the editor of a Hindi daily, which people read and are influenced by it, Rs. 300 or Rs. 500 a month, when the total gross revenue of *The Times of India* is to the tune of Rs. 2,44,43,165, showing a loss of Rs. 11,000?

Sir, *The Hindu* runs with a gross revenue of Rs. 63 lakhs and it has shown a profit of Rs. 2,14,773. The *Free Press* has shown a loss of Rs. 5 lakhs, though its revenue is only Rs. 26,64,000—as I told you, it had to face innumerable trouble and it is no use lumping it along with others. But in fairness to *The Statesman* it must be said that it has shown a gross revenue of Rs. 82,84,235 and has shown a higher profit than any other Indian paper in the sum of Rs. 6,18,563.

What happens to my Indian friends? Do they issue a double set of books, a double set of entry, with the highest income of any paper in the East—the Times of India publication, with a gross revenue of over Rs. 2 crores and which shows a loss of Rs. 11,000? But it is no wherewithal for the young journalist who works till 2 o'clock in the morning, sitting 40 miles away from home. These amenities are very essential.

When I was the Sheriff of Bombay, in 1948, I called all the newspaper proprietors to bring all the data with them and spend a sum of money, asking them to open out the columns of a newspaper for a fund in the name of Horniman, the great journalist who suffered for India, in the name of Mr. Brelvi, who shed tears in the *Bombay Chronicle*, another great journalist, a Mussalman, and a Hindu. Khadelkar, with the paper called *Navakhal* which circulated during the great days of freedom. He had no big money behind it. And again, Mr. Khadelkar was the first Indian who told the British that "it is because of you that the Hindu-Muslim riots started in Bombay". I said, "Throw out the funds for starting a Fund." Shri Morarji Desai was a journalist and they asked him for a plot of land We said, we want to have a club here, a club where every working journalist can go and sleep in the night and have breakfast in the morning. They were not prepared to throw open the columns of the newspaper to collect about Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs, which could have been collected for the mere asking.

There are no journalists' facilities or a building anywhere in India worth the name, nor in the capital. The Government have given some two or three rooms next door. For 58 years what has happened to all these wartime profits of the newspaper proprietors? The Supreme Court may know, or, may I, in all humility, say that perhaps they never heard this point. I do not know the proceedings. But the bureaucrats of newspaper industry are able to hire and collect a battery of legal talents. The hon. Mr. Munshi was there and others also. Mr. Shah was also there. There were solicitors and best counsels. But the poor journalist cannot have the services of great lawyers, and after all, even law sometimes triumphs with the aid of the finest talent and a battery of lawlords behind it. And there is this judgment of the Supreme Court before which we have to humbly bow. Next time if and when the case goes to the Supreme Court, I hope that the working journalists and the Government of India will definitely have a stronger and better case to put before the court.

In these kinds of things, what is the position? These are the facts. The wartime profits of newspapers were enormous and huge, and they were wallowing in their profits. We do not seem to consider about them.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member's time is up.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Yet, the newspapers, even after 10, 13 or 15 years after the war, are not prepared to give the barest minimum to the working journalists. They say, "We are only 20 per cent." They are to be seen in the memorandum set down in the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference. First, of all, they say that we are only 20 per cent; if we give you 20 per cent, the others will ask for more. Who are the others? The working journalists take on their back the burden of producing the newspaper on the editorial side. There are the others also. What happens to them? *The Times of India* today should set up and show a higher lead. It cannot merely go on by saying that it is the finest paper of the East. The British-owned paper has shown how to produce the paper, how to treat its employees. I do not know whether they give all the amenities, medical and all that. I do not know whether the Indian executives in *The Statesman* get these amenities: holiday once in three years abroad, for their wives and children. I want to know how many newspaper proprietors, the big top class, I, II, III—*The Hindu*, *The Hindustan Times* or others, give these facilities for their young men and women to go abroad. It is the bounden duty of big newspaper proprietors whose income has risen to Rs. 1 crore or Rs. 2 crores, to allow their young men and women who have served for seven years or more, to go abroad, to London, Tokyo and Prague, and see how they in those centres write a story and work in the newspaper offices. The journalist must be sent to London, Tokyo, Prague, etc. He must travel. Unless he travels, he cannot write with authority; he cannot write with feeling; he cannot write with judgment.

I would like the Ministry of Information to have a list as to how many men and women these newspaper proprietors have sent out of their own volition. They may go on delegations or other things.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member's time is up.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Two more minutes and I will sit down. These are the essential matters that they ought to provide for.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I cannot give him two minutes. I give one minute.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Two minutes. I shall finish. I want to get back to my old point. It has been the fate, destiny, of the Press Trust of India, that it has been sabotaged by the newspaper lords, and unless the Govern-

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ment takes this matter in its own hands, in the manner that the Press Commission has suggested, it will be difficult. It is a pity that it is the same case with the United Press of India also, which was started under noble auspices. Mr. Sadanand was one of the founders of the United Press of India. There is enough scope in this land to run these news agencies, if they are run well. They will go also on the rocks if they do not function well. These newspaper agencies should be the eyes of Indian journalism, and unless we are able to build up young men in these newspaper agencies, capable young men and women, able young men, who are able to take care of these, and see that they are provided enough money not only for their wives and children but also for their amenities, housing and other amenities, we will not be able to run our journalism on the right lines. These are the essential amenities.

I would beg of my hon. friends here not to neglect the other side: not merely the salary, but the other amenities, which are very essential for their upkeep. With these words, I thank you, Sir, for having given me the chance to speak on this Bill.

**Shri Naushir Bharucha** (East Khandesh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while most of us have expressed our sympathy with the lot of journalists, I think the best way to express that sympathy is to see that the legislation which we enact is flawless. It is very necessary to examine very critically the judgment of the Supreme Court so that we may avoid the various pitfalls. The decision of the Wage Board was challenged before the Supreme Court on two grounds: first, that the Act itself was *ultra vires* in that it violated articles 19(1)(a) and (g) and 14. But perhaps it will surprise the hon. Members to know that the ingenuity of the newspaper proprietors in attacking the Wage Board's decision was simply wonderful. They attacked it on 11 different grounds; that the reconstitution of the Board itself is *ultra vires*. Then they said that the decision was taken by a majority and that was not warranted. It is wonderful. Then, the procedure of the Board ignored the principles of natural justice. The reasons for the Wage Board's decision were not given. Classification on the basis of gross revenue was not authorised under the legislation. Grouping into chains and units was not authorised. The Board was not authorised to fix salaries on an all India basis. Again, the Board did not take into consideration the capacity to pay. That was the only argument out of the 11 points that was held good by the Supreme Court. Then, they said that the Board had no authority to give retrospective application. Then, they had no authority to fix scales of salaries for three years and the Board had not before them the cost of living index figures.

Why I am citing all these various arguments is because similar arguments may be taken up—a dozen of them—even on the existing Bill, as it is, and if one of them proves fatal to the Bill, then the poor journalists will have to be sent by us on a wild goose chase. I want that to be avoided, and that is the main purpose of my speech.

The Supreme Court stated that the capacity to pay was not taken into consideration. First, the concept of the capacity to pay includes also the elasticity of the demand of the product. Secondly, it also includes the extent to which the burden of higher salaries could be passed on to the consumer. Thirdly, whatever else you say, capacity means the producer, in this case, the newspaper proprietor, who must not be sent out of his business. Bearing all these factors in mind, let us see what should have been done by the Government. Let us get this thing very clearly: that the capacity to pay has come to stay.

I might say that from the legal point of view, the judgment of the Supreme Court is a monumental judgment. But it is going to give a lot of headache to the Government because every industry will now claim, apart from newspaper industry, that the capacity to pay must be taken into consideration. Therefore, it will throw open the floodgates of litigation But, since it is the decision or the pronouncement of the highest tribunal of this land, we have to accept the fact that the capacity to pay must be one on which this House should legislate This House cannot merely say that the capacity to pay ought not to be taken into consideration, because, there again, we would go into legal trouble. Therefore, let us be very clear that capacity to pay must be thrown into bolder relief in the Bill that we have to enact. If we do not do that, it is inconceivable that ultimately this Bill might also be held invalid by the Supreme Court

All that I want to see is that let there be not even the slightest loophole, because the ingenuity of the learned counsel for the newspaper proprietors is great, and therefore it is that we must be careful and see that a mere flaw this way or that way is not found. What I consider, in my opinion, to be and which may turn out to be flaws is what I am going to present just now. If we examine the scheme of the Bill, we will find that we are proceeding, not from the scratch, but we are proceeding by taking the Wage Board decision as the starting point. The hon. Minister has said there is nothing wrong in that, because that is the only basis on which you can modify or otherwise alter the decisions of the Wage Board beyond recognition. The scheme of the Bill is that we have got a committee which is required to give notice, and in the notice the Committee has to call upon the newspaper proprietors and the working journalists that they should make representations in regard to certain matters only. If we see clause (4), sub-clause (2) says:

> "Every such representation shall be in writing and shall be made within such period not exceeding thirty days, as the Committee may specify in the notice, and shall state—
>
> (a) the specific grounds of objection, if any, to the Wage Board decision,
>
> (b) the rates of wages which, in the opinion of the person making the representation, would be reasonable, having regard to the capacity of the employer to pay the same or to any other circumstance, whichever may seem relevant to the person making the representation in relation to his representation."

Therefore, "the capacity to pay" is brought in by the backdoor, merely in connection with the rates of wages. What I am pointing out is this. Why should we restrict the terms for making that representation? Because, ultimately, the Government will take a decision on the basis of the recommendations that the Committee makes, and the newspaper proprietors might contend that by the terms of the Act, by the language of the Act, they were restricted from making a full and free representation on the capacity to pay and, therefore, whatever recommendations the Committee may make are null and void. I have given my amendments only with the object of amplifying the scope of representation. Probably it may take more time, because more representations will be made.

Then, sub-clause (c) says:

> "the alterations or modifications, if any, which, in the opinion of the person making the representation, should be made in the Wage Board decision and the reasons therefor."

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Now, making modifications and alterations is not the same as outright rejecting the award, just like restricting a right does not mean abolishing or extinguishing such right Similarly, if you say "altering and modifying", that does not give the right to say that the whole thing should go lock, stock and barrel If, therefore, the Supreme Court comes to the conclusion that from the very start the newspaper proprietors were handicapped by reason of the fact that the language of the Bill restricted unnecessarily their freedom to make a representation—a High Court or the Supreme Court can very easily say there was no unfettered freedom given for representation at the time when the section was enacted—if any such flaw occurs, then again the poor journalist will have to go into wilderness.

Then you say in the Bill that "we shall decide all matters which, in our opinion are minor matters, without referring to the newspaper proprietors" If they are major matters, then only shall refer them to parties How can you change the accepted principle that no order can be made to the prejudice of any party without that party being heard. Does that principle say that when it is a minor matter you can pass the order without hearing the other party? Again, you will tumble there. It is conceivable that the Supreme Court may take a different view; that is a different point. But a danger is there in taking this view. If we want to express our sympathy for the working journalists, the best way to do it is to make this Bill flawless It is no use merely repeating *ad nauseam* that their condition is bad. That is an accepted fact. But what are we going to do about that? If I were there in the place of the hon. Minister, I would have proceeded in a very different manner. First, I would have appointed a fact-finding body to find out the capacity to pay, giving the fullest freedom to every side to make representation in any manner it wanted in connection with the subject matter of the dispute. I would not have restricted the scope to "altering or modifying the Wage Board decision". That is bad. It may turn out to be bad. Who knows?

Secondly, having done that, Government should have come to their own decision as to what should be the fair wage Thirdly, having come to that decision, instead of issuing a notice, it should have been embodied as a legislative Act of this House. In connection with the legislative character of the functions of the Wage Board the Supreme Court has made certain very illuminating references. Referring to the character and functions of the Board, they say·

> "There is considerable difference of opinion whether the functions performed by the Board are administrative, judicial, quasi-judicial or legislative in character. The question assumes importance on two grounds—whether the decisions of the Wage Board are open to judicial review" (if they are judicial, they are open to judicial review) "whether the principle of *audi alteram partem*—no man shall be condemned without being heard—applies to the proceedings before the Wage Board. If the functions were administrative or legislative in character, they would not be subject to judicial review and not only would they not be amenable to the writ of certiorari or prohibition under article 32 or article 226, but they would not be amenable to the exercise of special jurisdiction under article 136.... The principle that no man shall be condemned without being heard, that was not followed in the course of the proceedings before them and the procedure adopted by them was contrary to the principle of natural justice."

The point I am making is this. What will be the character of the function of the Wage Board or any authority that you want to set up to make recommendations? That character of the function is again determined by the language of the Bill.

Here it is obvious that, according to the language of the Bill, the functions are quasi-judicial. Also, on the recommendation made by them, the notification which the Government will pass, that itself will be open to challenge once again. The only way to prevent this being open to challenge, or at least to not a successful challenge, is to invest the final decision of the Government on the basis of the report of the fact-finding body with legislative character. Government arrives at a certain rate in the light of their report. Then, instead of the notification, they can embody these rates in a legislative enactment. The difference is this. Then, even if the journalists get much higher rates, the courts cannot question the wisdom of this House to grant higher rates. If it is a quasi-judicial decision, that decision can be questioned. That is the main point in regard to this. I, therefore, submit that when we are anxious to see that the journalists get their dues, it is more necessary that our enactment should be free from flaws. I am afraid, I cannot say that this is a flawless Bill or it is not open to some other objections. It may turn out to be good. But, in order to prevent the journalists from having another wild goose chase, it is very necessary that the Government should consider the amendments that I have suggested. While welcoming the steps taken by the Government to end the protracted agony of the journalists, it is very necessary that in view of the judgment of the Supreme Court we should be more cautious of our steps.

**Shri Achar:** I would like to make a few observations from a point of view which, I feel, had not been sufficiently discussed, rather not discussed at all, that is, from the point of view of the small papers. I am not thinking of the barons of the fourth estate. I felt that most of the speakers, including the hon. Minister himself, emphasised more the conditions of the working journalists of those big papers.

We have to consider the industry as a whole. If there are very good conditions in a few big papers like, probably *The Times of India*, which my hon. friend, Shri Alva, mentioned, or *The Hindu* of Madras or *The Hindustan Times* or a few other papers, I would submit that they are exceptions. That is not the general rule.

What is the general condition of this newspaper industry? What does the Press Commission say? They say that an amount of Rs. 7 crores has been invested and the profits do not go beyond Rs. 6 lakhs, *i.e.*, the return is 1 per cent. We have to remember the condition of the industry as a whole and not of these magnates. If these bigger newspapers are not paying properly to the journalists, probably the Government can take steps to see that their conditions are properly remedied and their remuneration is properly paid.

I have also something to do with the journalists and I know that their conditions are very bad. They had been agitating from about 1950 or 1951 and still they are in the same condition. All my sympathy for them and I feel that their conditions must be improved. But, while doing so, let us not forget the smaller papers in the *mofussil*. I would say that that part of the industry is more important. There are innumberable small newspapers in the District Headquarters and even in *Talukas*. What is the condition of those papers? One after another, I find, they are closing down. They have innumerable difficulties, *e.g.*, the difficulty of getting newsprint. What a tortuous method to get the licence? They have not even dreamt of paying income-tax at any time and yet they must take income-tax exemption certificates. There are innumerable

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things. I am not going into that as to how these small papers are labouring and finding it very difficult. That is the condition. These small papers hardly employ some two or three journalists. In some cases, the owner himself is the honorary editor and he employs some two or three persons, nothing more than that.

What is their capacity to pay? Very often, it was repeated here, I find speaker after speaker saying that this capacity to pay is a very small point. I was surprised to hear from hon. Members that capacity to pay is a small point. Is that so? The very existence of that newspaper will depend on that point.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee** (Kanpur): The existence of the journalists also.

**Shri Nausbir Bharucha:** The existence of the journalists does not matter.

**Shri Achar:** At the very outset I said that the conditions of the journalists are bad. Journalists of the bigger papers are altogether different from the journalists who are working in some of these small newspapers. Of course, the Press Commission itself has divided them into several classes. It may be quite right where the income runs in some lakhs, but what about the large number of small newspapers? For example, in my own district there are several weeklies. There may be probably one which is fairly prosperous, but look at the condition of the other papers who hardly have a circulation of 2,000 or 3,000 or 5,000. Every one of them is losing. I do not think I know only the difficulties of newspapers of my district. I know the conditions of newspapers in the neighbouring seven or eight districts at least. I know that paper after paper they are closing down.

The Praja Socialist Party had in our district a fairly good weekly, called *Vichara Vadi*. The Vice-President of the Praja Socialist Party was connected formerly with the Congress from 1918 or so. He was running that weekly—a good weekly—to advocate the policy of the All-India Praja Socialist Party. His paper has closed down. What is the condition of the paper of the Communist Party. *The Aruna*. It is running at a loss. I am connected also with another paper. What is the condition of that paper? It is simply struggling for existence. I do not know, when year after year it is losing thousands of rupees, whether it will close or not. That is the condition of weeklies and dailies in the *mofussil*. As I have said, I have not much experience of these bigger papers: I am making these observations from the point of view of the small papers.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** What are you suggesting from Government for these papers—a subsidy?

**Shri Achar:** I do not know whether that will improve matters. Anyhow I would like to go my own way because hardly I have five minutes or so.

My point is from the point of view of the small journals—whether the remedy now suggested will improve matters or whether it will go to the root of the condition of this industry and whether they will not suffer more? What is it that is suggested in this Bill? An official committee is to be appointed and the conditions are to be decided. I want to ask this question—in fact I want to appeal to the hon. Minister—will it be possible for this committee—an official committee—to know more about the conditions of the papers in the *mofussil*? Will it be possible for them to go into this question and find out what exactly is the position of these newspapers and what is their capacity to pay? Will it be possible? I find from the financial memorandum that about four months are provided. The hon. Minister was pleased to say that probably that may be extended a little more. It may be five months or so. I ask this question whether this official committee will be able to go and find out the conditions of these several small weeklies spread all over India from Cape Comorin to the Himalayas. Will it be possible for this committee to go into this question and find out what exactly is the condition of this industry? Of course, the Supreme Court has come to the conclusion that the capacity to pay is an important factor. My hon. friend, Shri Bharucha, has already pointed out that there are technical difficulties which will also have to be got over

Now, the capacity to pay is a point that has to be considered. Will it be possible for this committee to go into this aspect of the question and find out what exactly is the capacity to pay and whether this committee will be able to suggest a rate of wages? I would submit that they will not be able to do so. At this point I would like to submit as to why in the case of the journalists the ordinary procedure of law is not adopted. We have got the Industrial Disputes Act. So, if things are to be gone into there is a regular procedure provided for, i.e., the conciliation procedure and a regular adjudication. I can understand in exceptional cases of very big Presses, where probably they will be able to go and represent their conditions, a procedure like this will be possible. But conditions differ from place to place. What is in Mangalore may not be even in Mysore. What is in Mysore may not be in Hyderabad or Jabalpur or Ludhiana. Conditions are so different. Workers are working in different conditions altogether. If that is so, is it possible to have a general rate of wages or is it necessary to look into the conditions of each area? That is why I would submit that the general provision of the law, the common law of the land, the law which provides the Industrial Disputes Act and which provides the remedy whether that will not be the proper method so far as at least the smaller journals are concerned. I would appeal to the hon. Minister to see that either these small journals are exempted from the scope of this Act or I will say that it must be a committee which would go into this matter in detail.

In fact, the Press Commission or the Wage Board also had to admit that they did not have sufficient material to fix any rate of wages. In fact, the Chairman himself in his remarks says:

> "Such anomalies may also be pointed out. But it must be remembered that we had no data of all the newspapers before us and where we had it was in many cases not satisfactory."

The Chairman himself had to admit that that was the position and the information that they had. When that is so, is it possible for an official committee, and I find that this committee is practically a committee from the Secretariat, within that space of time to enquire into all these conditions and advise the Government as to how this wage must be decided. I would submit that this committee will not be able to do it, if my submissions are correct. I would appeal to the hon. Minister to consider the consequences of any recommendation that could be made about these small newspapers. These newspapers have not merely their journalists to help them. As several of the critics have pointed out, this journalistic industry does not consist of only the working journalists. In fact, they have several other departments, the circulation side, development side, printing side, composing side and several other sides. As a matter of fact, as the Owners' Conference has pointed out, the expenses on the journalists is only one-fifth. If we look to this side only, what will be the consequence on the other departments of the newspaper industry? Will it not create dissatisfaction? It may be, as pointed out earlier, the bigger magnates may be able to stand it. What is the position of the smaller papers? If one-fifth of these workers are given an increase, what will be the condition of this industry? It is already in a very great stress and strain. What will be the condition of

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the small papers and the four-fifths of the other employees in their concerns. I would submit that the Minister may be pleased to look to this side of the question specially in view of the fact that the investment and the number of persons employed may be more in these bigger concerns. As a matter of fact from the point of view of the independence of the press and from the point of view of building up a democracy, I would say these small papers are of the greatest importance. If this Bill is passed, I submit, it will be a great thing, a great injustice, I will say, so far as these small papers are concerned. I would appeal to the hon. Minister once again to consider this aspect and see that the small papers are not made to suffer.

**श्री भक्त दर्शन** (गढ़वाल) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों के वेतन-स्तर को निश्चित करने के सम्बन्ध में शासन ने जो अध्यादेश जारी किया और दो दिन पहले श्रम मंत्री महोदय ने जो विधेयक यहां प्रस्तुत किया, उसका मैं हार्दिक समर्थन करता हूं ।

श्रम मंत्री महोदय ने अपने लम्बे भाषण में जिस संयम और धैर्य से काम लिया है उसकी मैं प्रशंसा करना चाहता हूं । यद्यपि यह निश्चित है कि समाचारपत्रों के मालिकों का जो सम्मेलन पिछले दिनों इसी दिल्ली में हुआ था उसके द्वारा पारित प्रस्तावों और उसमें दिये गये भाषणों के बारे में माननीय मंत्री जी ने विस्तारपूर्वक समझाने का प्रयत्न किया और इस बात की मुझे बड़ी प्रसन्नता है कि अपनी उत्तेजना को उन्होंने अपने वश में रखा, व अपने नियंत्रण में रखा । उन्होंने काफी विस्तारपूर्वक उनके सम्बन्ध में प्रकाश डाल दिया है । इसलिए मैं इस सम्बन्ध में और अधिक नहीं कहना चाहता था, लेकिन श्री आचार ने जो मुझसे पहले यहां पर एक-दो बातें कहीं, उनके कारण मुझे मजबूर होकर कुछ बातें सदन के सामने रखनी पड़ रही हैं ।

सबसे पहला प्रश्न जो उन्होंने रखा और जो सवाल समय-समय पर उठाया जाता है वह यह है कि बड़े-बड़े जो समाचारपत्र हैं उनके मालिकों की आड़ लेकर कहीं गेहूं के साथ घुन न पिस जायें और कहीं छोटे समाचारपत्रों को आघात न पहुंचे । मैं स्वयं इस सदन में समय-समय पर इस बात की आवाज उठाता रहता हूं कि छोटे समाचारपत्रों की हमें रक्षा करनी चाहिए, लेकिन मुझे इस अवसर पर अपने शासन के कर्णधारों से फिर यह शिकायत करनी है कि समय-समय पर जो सुझाव दिये गये उन पर अभी तक पूरे तरीके से अमल नहीं किया गया है ।

प्रेस आयोग ने एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण सिफारिश की थी, मूल्यानुसार पृष्ठ-पृष्ठि, प्राइस पेज शैडयूल के सम्बन्ध में : उसके बारे में कई वर्षों से विचार हो रहा है । यह निश्चित है कि अगर उस प्राइस पेज शैडयूल को लागू कर दिया जाय तो जो छोटे समाचारपत्र हैं उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति सम्हल सकती है और वह पत्रकारों को पूरा वेतन दे सकते हैं; लेकिन मुझे जहां तक मालूम हुआ है, हमारे बड़े समाचारपत्रों के मालिक उसमें आड़े आ रहे हैं और उसमें अड़चनें डाल रहे हैं ।

इसके अतिरिक्त पिछले दिनों मैंने जो आध घंटे की चर्चा की थी उसमें भी मेरा यही उद्देश्य था कि भारत सरकार की जो अपनी सरकारी विज्ञापनों के वितरण की नीति है उसमें भी जहां तक हो सके भारतीय भाषाओं के समाचारपत्रों को तथा जो छोटे छोटे समाचारपत्र हैं उनको और अधिक प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिए और अधिक संख्या और अधिक परिमाण में विज्ञापन देना चाहिए, ताकि उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति सुधर सके । मैं इस अवसर पर प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूं कि उन्हें शीघ्र इस ओर क़दम उठाना चाहिए, ताकि हमारे छोटे समाचारपत्रों की आर्थिक स्थिति सुधर सके । अगर यह दो क़दम उठाये गये तो मैं समझता हूं कि उन की आर्थिक स्थिति इतनी सुधर जायेगी कि जो वेज बोर्ड ने सिफ़ारिशें की थीं या वह समिति

कुछ संशोधित रूप में जो सिफ़ारिशें करने वाली हैं उनकी अदायगी करने में कुछ अड़चनें नहीं पड़ेंगी ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्रम मंत्री महोदय ने विस्तार के साथ जो अभी समाचारपत्र मालिकों का सम्मेलन हुआ था उसके बारे में अपने विचार प्रकट किये थे । यहां पर कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने यह भी आशंका प्रकट की है कि जब यह विधेयक स्वीकार हो जायेगा तथा उसके बाद इस विधेयक के द्वारा जो समिति नियुक्त हो रही है उसकी रिपोर्ट सदन के सामने और देश के सामने आ जायेगी और जब उसको लागू करने का अवसर हमारे सामने आयेगा उस समय यह हो सकता है कि समाचारपत्रों के मालिक फिर उच्चतम न्यायालय की शरण लें । यह काफी गम्भीर मामला है । हमें यह देखना है कि यह कानून इस तरीके का बनाया जाये और इस पर इस तरीके से अमल किया जाय, ताकि इसकी कोई सम्भावना नहीं रहे । लेकिन इसके साथ ही साथ मैं सरकार से यह भी निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि विश्वसनीय सूत्रों से यह मालूम पड़ता है कि हमारे समाचारपत्रों के—बड़े समाचारपत्रों के—मालिक साहिबान कुछ एक षड्यन्त्र अन्दर-अन्दर रच रहे हैं । वे केवल उच्चतम न्यायालय में ही नहीं आना चाहते, बल्कि पत्रों की स्वाधीनता के नाम पर, मैं तो कहूंगा कि उसका दुरुपयोग करने पर उतारू हो रहे हैं और जहां तक पता चला है उससे यह मालूम होता है कि उन्होंने इस बात का निर्णय कर लिया है कि अगर यह समिति स्थापित हो जाय और यह उनके विरोध के बावजूद भी कुछ सिफ़ारिशें करें और सरकार उन पर दृढ़ता से अमल करे, जैसा कि मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि वह करेगी, तो उनकी ओर से सरकारी और संसदीय कार्यवाहियों का 'ब्लैकआउट' कर दिया जायेगा । यह एक बहुत बड़ा गम्भीर षड्यन्त्र मालूम पड़ता है । अभी २२ तारीख को यहां पर इस सदन में जो विचार प्रकट किये गये, कुछ ऐसा मालूम पड़ता है कि उन पर 'ब्लैकआउट' लगाया गया यानी यहां पर जो लोकल ऐडीशन निकलता है उस में तो कुछ समाचार दिये जाते हैं, लेकिन जो डाक ऐडीशन बाहर भेजा गया उसे तोड़ा मरोड़ा गया और काट-छांट कर दी गई । कुछ ऐसा शक होता है कि जब वह समाचार प्रकाशित हो गया तब उस के बाद समाचारपत्रों के मालिकों के दिमाग में कुछ फितूर आया और उन्होंने अपने सम्पादकों को डराया-धमकाया कि इतने लम्बे-चौड़े समाचार क्यों दिये जा रहे हैं, यहां तक कि शायद मिनिस्टर साहब के भाषण के बारे में भी कहा गया कि इतना लम्बा-चौड़ा भाषण प्रथम पृष्ठ पर क्यों दिया गया है ? तो यह एक ऐसी चीज़ है जिस के बारे में मैं सरकार को चेतावनी देना चाहता हूं । सरकार के पास भी एक बड़ा शस्त्र है और वह शस्त्र इस प्रकार का है कि अगर वे संसद् की कार्यवाही 'बायकाट' करना चाहते हैं और बड़े समाचारपत्र माननीय मंत्रियों के भाषणों को भी नहीं छापना चाहते तो उस का जवाब उन के पास यह है कि कम से कम वह सरकारी विज्ञापन देना बन्द कर दें और उन को 'ब्लैक लिस्ट' कर दें । इस तरीके से उन के षड्यन्त्र का मुकाबला किया जा सकता है ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ने कुछ संशोधनों की सूचना दी है । उन में मेरी मुख्य मंशा यह है कि काफी देरी श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों के सम्बन्ध में हो चुकी है । सन् १९५०-५१ से लगातार वे इस बारे में मांगें करते रहे हैं । प्रेस आयोग एक प्रकार से उन्हीं के परिश्रम से और उन्हीं के आन्दोलन के द्वारा स्थापित हुआ था । उस के बाद वेज बोर्ड की स्थापना हुई । फिर सुप्रीम कोर्ट में इतना समय लग गया । अब यहां पर जो विशेष समिति स्थापित की गई मुझे बड़ी प्रसन्नता है कि पहले श्रम मंत्री महोदय ने घोषणा की थी कि तीन महीने में उस का कार्य समाप्त हो जायेगा । इस से मालूम

[श्री भक्त दर्शन]

पड़ता है कि श्रम मंत्री महोदय बहुत प्रयत्नशील है, उन का बड़ा इच्छा है और बड़ा उत्कट अभिलाषा है कि जल्द से जल्द उस का कार्य समाप्त हो, लेकिन कुछ अड़चनें आने का वजह से, कुछ आकड़े एकत्र करने पड़ रहे हं जिन का वजह से दो महीने का और समय लगेगा। और मुझे तो यह आशंका हो रहा है कि तीन महानें के बाद पाच महीनें फिर छं महाने और इसा तरह कही एक वर्ष न लग जाय। इसलिये आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि जल्दी से जल्दी इस सम्बन्ध में निर्णय कर लिया जाय।

श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों के बारे मे मुझे कुछ अधिक कहने का आवश्यकता नही है। स्वयं समाचारपत्रो के मालिको के सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करते हुए डा० कुजरू साहब नें ये शब्द कहे थे :

> "With the conditions under which some of the journalists have to carry on their duty I am well acquainted I have no hesitation in saying that they have not received a fair deal".

अर्थात् कुंजरू साहब ने उस सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करते हुए स्वयं इस बात को स्वीकार किया था कि श्रमजीवी पत्रकारो की जो आर्थिक स्थिति है वह बडा दयनीय है और उस का जल्दा से जल्दी कुछ निराकरण किया जाना चाहिये।

श्रीमन्, मै इस सम्बन्ध में माननीय श्रम मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर भी आकर्षित करना चाहता हू कि पहले इस बारे मे जो अधिनियम बना था व कानून बना था उस की बहुत सी धाराओं के सम्बन्ध मे आंकड़े मांगे गये और तथ्य एकत्र करने की कोशिश की गई, लेकिन उन को अभी तक भी एकत्र नहीं किया जा सका। हमारे पास इस तरह के उदाहरण मौजूद है, विशेष कर बम्बई में, और मुझे कुछ शर्म आती है यह कहते हुए कि मैं उत्तर प्रदेश का रहने वाला हूं लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश में जहां कि हमारे गृह मंत्री एक बड़े प्रसिद्ध पत्रकार रह चुके हं, वे एक दैनिक पत्र के सम्पादक रह चुके हैं, और जहां के श्रम मंत्री एक साहित्यिक व्यक्ति हं और जिन का कि पत्रकारों से काफ़ी अच्छा सम्बन्ध रहा है, उन के होते हुए भी उत्तर प्रदेश में और बम्बई में ऐसे उदाहरण मौजूद हे कि श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों की तरफ से जितने मामले उठाये गये उन को औद्योगिक अदालतो तक नही आने दिया गया ; वहा तक उन को पहुंचने ही नही दिया गया और उन को बीच मे ही समाप्त कर दिया गया। इसलिये मै ने कुछ सशोधनो की सूचना दी है और मेरे कुछ मित्रो ने भी दी है जिन का कि आशय यह है कि राज्य सरकारो के लिये यह अनिवार्य कर दिया जाय कि अगर कोई ऐसा मसला वेतन न मिलनें का आये तो उस को औद्योगिक न्यायालयों के सुपुर्द करना अनिवार्य हो।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अन्त मे मै इस अवसर पर एक ही बात कहना चाहता हू कि समाचारपत्र-मालिको की ओर से जो स्मृतिपत्र इस कमेटी को दिया गया है, वह हम लोगो का अर्थात माननीय सदस्य का भी वितरित किया गया है। उस स्मृतिपत्र के खंड ११ ५ वीं मे कुछ शब्द आते हं जिनको कि वजह से मुझे कुछ कहना पड़ रहा है। उस मे कहा गया है :

> "It has always been recognised even by the journalists themselves that the working journalists in English dailies cannot be put on the same basis as those in language papers. The nature of the work and the qualifications for the work in English and language papers are totally of a different character."

यह जो सिफारिश इन्होंने की है या इन्होंने अपने स्मृतिपत्र में जो बात लिखी है, मैं इस अवसर पर उसका कड़ा विरोध करता हूं। मै माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान और

मत्री जी के द्वारा जो इस वक्त एक विशेष समिति नियुक्त की गई है उसका ध्यान में इस ओर दिलाना चाहता हूं। यह आम तौर पर कह दिया जाता है कि हिन्दी और अन्य भारतीय भाषाओ के जो पत्रकार हैं उनका स्तर नीचा है। लेकिन उसके उलटे मै बतलाना चाहता हू कि आज स्थिति यह है कि हिन्दी और अन्य भारतीय भाषाओ के पत्रकार-जगत में जितने भी हमारे नये पत्रकार आ रहे हैं वे पूरे उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त हैं, उनके अन्दर एम० ऐज० और डौक्टर्स काम कर रहे है। इसके सिवाय अगर हम तुलना करे बारीकी मे तो जितना अग्रेजी के पत्रकारो को जो कि दैनिक पत्रो मे खास कर काम करते है उनको केवल जो सदेश उनके पास अग्रेजी में टाइप हो कर आते है उन मे केवल सशोधन करना होता है, कही पर 'टी'' काटना होना है, कही "आई" पर "डौट " लगा देना और कही पर, फुलस्टौप लगा देना होता है जब कि हिन्दी व अन्य भारतीय भाषाओ के पत्रकारो क अन्दर दुहरी योग्यता होना जरूरी है। उनको अग्रेजी का अच्छा ज्ञान होना आवश्यक है ; और उन के अन्दर इतनी काबलियत होनी चाहिये कि वह बिजली की गति मे उसका हिन्दी और अन्य भारतीय भाषाओ मे अनुवाद कर सके। इसलिये हिन्दी और अन्य भारतीय भाषाओ के समाचारपत्रो में जो पत्रकार काम कर रहे है उन को दुहरा परिश्रम करना पडना है और दुहरी उन की योग्यता भी होती है। इस प्रकार दोनो भाषाओ मे उनकी समान गति होती है और इस दृष्टिकोण से मै तो यहा तक कहने को तैयार हू कि अग्रेजी के पत्रकारो को जितना वेतन दिया जाये हिन्दी और अन्य भारतीय भाषाओ के पत्रकारो को उससे अधिक वेतन देना चाहिये। क्योकि उन्होने स्वाधीनता के संग्राम में उनके मुकाबले ज्यादा कुर्बानी भी की है। खैर, इसको छोडिये। आज भी देश के निर्माण मे वे ज्यादा परिश्रम से काम कर रहे है। मैं कम से कम यह आशा करता हूं और मुझे यह पूरा विश्वास है कि माननीय मत्री जी के रहते हुए, जो कि अपनी न्यायप्रियता के लिये प्रसिद्ध हैं, जो यह कमेटी बनी है, उसके ध्यान मे यह बात रहेगी कि किसी भी हालत मे हिन्दी और दूसरी भारतीय भाषाओ के पत्रकारो और अग्रेजी पत्रो के पत्रकारो के बीच में वेतन के मामले मे कोई अन्तर नही कया जायेगा। मै यह नही कहता कि क्या वेतन स्थिर किया जाये, लेकिन यह निश्चित सिद्धात होना चाहिये कि जो भी वेतन स्थिर किया जाये वह हिन्दी तथा अन्य भारतीय भाषाओ और अग्रेजी भाषा के पत्रकारो के लिये समान हो।

इन शब्दो के साथ मै इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हू।

**Shri Nanda:** When I made some observations at the commencement of this discussion, I spoke of my anticipation with regard to the course of this discussion  I had a certain impression about the temper and attitude of this House towards the problem which has now come up before it in the shape of this Bill  That has been fully realised  I feel deeply grateful to all the Members of the House for confirming my expectation that if I had not done this, if this Government had not taken recourse to this promulgation of an ordinance in the quickest time possible, Government would have come in for blame and exposed itself to criticism

As far as I can judge, taking all the speeches together, there has been no objection whatever, no doubt expressed regarding the desirability of having an ordinance on the subject  So far as the substance of this proposal is concerned, here also I believe practically all the hon  Members are, in accord with the Government regarding the provisions and the intent of this legislation  One or two Members, however, have indicated a certain difference of opinion regarding certain provisions of the Bill  There is, however, this acknowledge fact.

[Shri Nanda]

One hon. Member, Shri Achar, spoke in a different strain, and as far as I could understand the object of that speech, it ran counter to the basic concept and approach of this proposed legislation.

Hon. Member, Shri Prabhat Kar, who spoke immediately after I had finished my speech, also has some other suggestion to offer. Although he fully agrees that there should have been an ordinance, his point of view is that instead of a Bill which provides for the appointment of a committee which is going to make an enquiry and make recommendations, it would have been far better for the Government itself to come forward with proposals for a wage scale, to be embodied in the legislation itself. This is an attractive idea, and was before our minds also, but how would the Government have arrived at a decision regarding what should be a proper scale of wages? There would have had to be an enquiry, both because when you are looking at a thing again you have to apply your mind and assure yourself that a fair deal is being given to all concerned, and also because of the express directions of the Supreme Court. They have to be complied with. There had to be an enquiry. Then, a certain amount of time should have elapsed in the course of that enquiry. What does this Bill do? What was the provision made in the Ordinance? The inquiry precedes the determination by Government of what the wage rates should be. Parliament has been asked or approached to sanction a certain procedure for the purpose of ascertaining what the facts are, what the situation of the industry is, what the specific factor, into which an inquiry is now called for in terms of the judgment of the Supreme Court is, and so on. And what Government have agreed to do and what they have recommended to Parliament is that there should be a committee which will be properly assisted in the matter of this assignment of theirs to have a close look into the state of the industry, its capacity to pay, what scales or wages are going to be recommended for adoption etc. This would have had to be done. It is better that it is done in an open way, and Parliament knows what procedure is being adopted for the purpose of carrying out this responsibility. And what is being intended through this Bill, I feel absolutely sure, is preferable to the course suggested by the hon. Member.

Then, there was a suggestion that instead of adopting this particular mechanism or this particular procedure, we should have gone ahead with a kind of *de novo* inquiry and set up another wage board or something like that. In my remarks at the outset, I covered that ground I believe, adequately, and explained why that course was not necessary at all and was open to certain objections.

The intention is that we should have enabled the newspaper establishments to state their case fully and furnish all the information that they can so that the matter may be looked at fully and afresh Shri Achar has gone much farther, and I shall deal with his point, namely that the question of the capacity of the industry has to be gone into. Whoever denied that this was important? This question of the capacity of the industry is relevant in all proceedings for wage determination. Except when it is a question of a subsistence wage, to what extent the capacity comes in may differ according to circumstances. But the capacity of the industry is there, and it is relevant, and it is being taken into consideration. As attempted to indicate, what was it that came in the way of a full assessment of the capacity of the industry then, and how would a *de novo* inquiry have made any difference from the point of view of any legitimate consideration?

The question raised by Shri Achar was: How would it be possible for this committee to judge the capacity of the industry or the capacity of a particular newspaper in a praticular corner of this country, by sitting here, and how is it at all considered feasible that a uniform scale of wages can be accepted and applied over the whole industry, in the whole country, considering the enormous variations in the capacity and the circumstances at each place? This consideration is not restricted only to the newspaper industry. It is quite relevant in the case of all industries. An industry of a national character is spread all over the country. Which industry is not? Take the case of the textile industry, for example.

**Shri Achar**: I should like to explain one matter. With regard to all other industries, no such legislation for fixing wages for the whole country has been adopted. Usually, a dispute arises, and it goes before the industrial tribunal; the tribunal goes into that particular question and decides the scale of pay or the rate of wages. It is only with regard to the newspaper industry that this method has been adopted. That is my submission.

**Shri Nanda**: The hon. Member is speaking to the Labour Minister as to what ways are being adopted for the purpose of wage determination in different industries. And with all humility, I may inform the hon. Member that he has to study a little more of the history of wage determination in this country. There are a number of industries where wage boards have been appointed, or tribunals have been appointed, which have taken into their purview the whole stretch of the industry in this country, and may be, it was open to them to take into account regional considerations also, just as it is open to this committee to take into account regional considerations. But there it is.

One answer is that it is quite possible, quite feasible, and quite proper, depending upon the cases which are being dealt with, to have a scale or a wage rate which will be operative or applied to the entire industry in the whole country, that is, a uniform scale. Take, for example, the coal industry. The tribunal settled certain wage scales, and they are very extensively applied. So, it is not that the newspaper industry has been singled out and an invidious distinction is being made to the disadvantage of this industry. That is not so. This is the usual approach towards fixing the standard of wages, in order that there may not be bickerings and quarrels and disputes from day to day; for, in one place, the workers are having a certain scale, while at another place, they are having more for practically the same kind of work, and this always leads to tension and difficulties and trouble. Therefore, the trend of wage fixation has been in the direction of greater and greater uniformity in the interests of industrial peace and in the interests of justice.

In this case, it has been made very clear in the Ordinance and in the Bill that it is open to the committee to take into account regional variations. So, this answers my hon. friend's point. And who can give us the assurance—can the hon. Member do that—that even if we enable the members—the number of members is limited, but we have appointed more than a score of officers—or others to go into each and every unit including the smallest, there will be the guarantee that that unit will furnish the information simply because somebody goes there? Why could not that information have been furnished otherwise? Was it not asked for by the Press Commission? Did not the Wage Board itself make a serious endeavour or effort and try to persuade? Also, I believe, they tried to do something more vigorous also, but they did not succeed. What prevented the persons concerned, whose interests and whose handicaps and difficulties are in the mind of the hon. Member, from giving all the information that they had quickly in order to enable, in the first instance, the Press Commission and afterwards the Wage Board to have all the data and the material before

[Shri Nanda]

them, so that it could not have been said by anybody that the wage capacity to pay had not been fully considered?

15 hrs.

If the material had been there—all of it—there would have been no difficulty. As has been pointed out by several Members, some of the proprietors refused to give the information and in order to escape that liability to furnish the information, they in advance were prepared to commit themselves to pay whatever scale was applicable. This meant that their capacity to pay was unlimited I do not know what considerations made them to take up that attitude. I cannot go behind all that. Even as regards the newspaper of my hon. friend, Shri Mahanty, who spoke the other day, I have been given the information that in spite of reminders and two public notices, he did not submit any returns at all. I would not like to bring up any personal case; I do not think it is at all material very much as to whether the hon. Member himself gave the information or not. But the more important thing is that there were a number of such cases where they were reluctant and refused to give information. Why did they? One hon. Member who spoke a little while ago said that there was a kind of wage freeze. That is what has happened in the case of the working journalists. Let us see the perspective in which this attempt to hasten things has to be seen.

The Wage Board gave its decision on the 10th May, 1957. It said that this decision was to be made applicable to a point of time—2nd May, 1956. If this decision stood the test of the Supreme Court's scrutiny and if the Wage Board had adopted a certain procedure which could have escaped negative judgment, that decision would have been applicable from a certain date and retrospectively from an earlier date. At that time, the protests which arose in very big volume and intensity were based on this contention that it was very burdensome and onerous for a newspaper to have to pay a scale of wages with increase which had to cover a whole period of twelve months before the date. Where is the money to come from? I wish there had been nothing retrospective about it, if they could have got the thing on the spot, because what was not retrospective at the time of the decision of the Wage Board has become now retrospective by so many more months. As the delay goes on, they are not getting anything retrospective.

I cannot say what the Committee will do, how far back it will go or not go. It is for the Committee to recommend. But at any rate, as every day passes, a situation is arising whereby they are losing for that day also. I have nothing to speak about getting it for 2 years or 1½ years, from an earlier period. But the sense of urgency that arises in this case is because of this fact that the longer it takes the more will have to be paid It would have been something if whatever was due to them—may be it was a little less than what the Wage Board had decided upon—was paid; but even that something is in jeopardy because of the delay that is going on, and the Committee will consider how far they have to go in order to fasten this kind of liability on them. So there it is. We have to see this particular case in this special setting and consider any suggestion that we may go and have the facts and figures about every unit and then decide.

And what about the Industrial Disputes Act, conciliation etc.? Has there not been abundant conciliation in this case? At what levels? Conciliation at the level of the Labour Ministers and conciliation, as has been pointed out here, at the level of a Committee of the Cabinet. What more conciliation was possible? That failed. Then there was a quasi-judicial procedure, the Wage Board, and it did not yield results. So I do not think there has not been enough effort to see that things were done without creating any feeling that anybody was being hustled.

Some other objections were to the mechanism that has been adopted, to the composition of this Committee. Shri Mahanty said certain things about this Committee which I failed to appreciate very much—that this Committee was a Committee of junior officers. It is composed of Joint Secretaries who may be Secretaries tomorrow—all of them. They are entrusted with this task of inquiring into the condition of the industry, and to say that the decisions arrived at by a competent authority presided over by a High Court Judge will be subject to revision by a body consisting of junior officers is a very wrong appreciation of the situation. Who is going to decide in this case? These are recommendations to be made by the Committee and the ultimate responsibility for decision is with Government. It is Government's decision. Government are having a review with the help of officers who have been appointed as a Committee. So I think the doubt that has been created about the appropriateness of this course is not well founded at all.

There is one serious issue raised by Shri Naushir Bharucha. It is very well intended and deserves very serious consideration. It is in line with the sentiments I have expressed that we should try to avoid any kind of further delays; we should make this, shall I say, lawyer-proof

**Shri Naushir Bharucha:** Flaw-proof. Nothing is lawyer-proof.

**Shri Nanda:** It should at least not become vulnerable to inroads by legal ingenuity. We share that feeling. We should try to make it as good and perfect as possible, in view of the fact—as has also been mentioned by some hon. Members—that the resolution of the conference refers to it as 'unconstitutional' apart from other adjectives. I felt that one had to take notice of that.

How do we take notice of it? The only way is to have a very good look into it and see that we do not leave any loophole. I feel that as far as our legal advisers and others are concerned, they have applied their minds fully to this subject and they are of the opinion that what is being intended to be done is quite all right. At the stage of amendments, we can consider the matter further as to whether anything needs to be done about it so that there may be no possibility of any difficulty arising later on. But on the face of it, it appears that there should not be any difficulty because the section in the Working Journalists Act refers specifically to this. That is, the appointment of the Wage Board has been linked up with the question of fixation of rates of wages. That is exactly the wording which is being used in this Bill also; that is, the functions of the Board are to fix the rates of wages. But we will have a little closer look into it.

A few things which do not affect directly the provisions of the Bill were brought in by some hon. Members. They gave an inkling of the working of the minds of the hon. Members about certain things which have to be done, not here by this Bill, but by the committee. The question of the status of the language papers, the working journalists in these newspapers are all things which have to be dealt with on merits on a study of the facts. Personally I have all the sympathy with the viewpoint which was expressed by the hon. Member who spoke last. But it is not for me to say anything about it because there is a committee engaged in dealing with these matters and that committee will go into the merits. All these matters are relevant to their enquiry and, certainly, I expect them to look into all the

[Shri Nanda]

aspects of the matter in all their bearings.

I have to thank the hon. Members again for the unanimous support given to this proposed legislation and also for giving expression to their views on the subject of how the industry should arrange its affairs and how it should be possible to have better relations among the working journalists and the proprietors by ensuring that there is a fair deal to those who work in the industry.

Having said that I hope that the rest of the stages may also be gone through promptly.

**Shri Mahanty** (Dhenkanal): May I solicit some information from the hon. Minister? In the course of his interruption the other day while I was speaking, the hon. Minister assured us that he would let us know what Government were thinking about the price-page schedule, the policy of newsprint distribution, and the re-orientation of the advertisement policy. He has not made any mention of it.

**Shri Nanda:** If you permit me, Sir, I will say a few words about this. Because I thought that I should not exceed the time allotted to me by the Speaker I did not say anything about these. But since this has been specifically asked, I will answer.

I placed myself in touch with the hon. Minister in charge of the subject and he has given me information which I can convey to this House. I had asked him to intervene and give information to the House. The information that I have been given—about which I had some knowledge before also—is that the Ministry have actually dealt with this matter. They placed a statement on the Table of the House some time last year wherein the factual position in regard to the implementation of the main recommendations of the Press Commission were given. Up to that point of time there is full information given to the House.

The matter specifically in the mind of the hon. Member is the price-page schedule. The Press Commission when they dealt with this problem had some integrated view of the whole position. That is, something was to be done for the working journalists but something else had to be done by Government for the industry. Therefore the two things go together. With regard to the other matters which have a bearing like the capacity of the industry, certain doubts and difficulties might arise as to the other part which is being decided upon in relation to the working journalists, that is, creating certain burdens or liabilities on the newspapers.

Regarding that, I am told that the only matter which has not yet been disposed of is the question of the price-page schedule.

Regarding advertisements I have got before me a set of papers in which the replies of the hon. Minister in charge of this subject have been fully given as to what the policy is. Regarding price-page schedule the decision is this. This is an answer given by the hon. Minister in this connection. I will just read two or three lines from that.

> "We have passed an Act regarding price-page schedule. This question has been exercising the mind of the Government very seriously. We are looking into the various policies which will help in fulfilling the objects for which the Act was passed and when they can be promulgated.
>
> I said in reply to a question on the floor of this House last month that in everybody's interests—it is not the interests of the proprietors only—the question concerning the future newspapers.

> their standard and also regarding the spirit of competition about which the Press Commission has also referred, we felt that we would not be right in trying to hurry up this thing and that is why we have been considering this matter seriously."

The last sentence is—

> "I may, however, inform the House that very soon we are going to take a decision regarding this and we will place it before this House."

Here is an assurance of the Minister in charge that the one matter which now needs to be . . .

**Shri Mahanty:** What is the date of this reply?

**Shri Nanda:** It is this year; April 1958.

**श्री भक्त दर्शन** : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, प्राइस पेज शिड्यूल के बारे में हमेशा वेरी सून इत्यादि शब्दों का प्रयोग किया जाता है। क्या यह निश्चित रूप से बताया जा सकता है कि देर से देर कब तक इस का निर्णय हो जायेगा ?

**उपाध्यक्ष महोदय** : अब तो इतना ही निश्चित हो सकता है, जितना कि कर दिया गया है।

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I will now put the question.

The question is:

> "That the Bill to provide for the fixation of rates of wages in respect of working journalists and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Clause 2.—*Definitions***

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

> "That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 3.—** (*Constitution of Committee*).

**Shri Mahanty:** Sir, I move:

Page 2,—

*for* lines 7 to 22, *substitute*—

> "3. (1) For the purpose of enabling the Central Government to fix rates of wages in respect of working journalists, having regard to the conditions of the working journalists and the capacity of the various categories of newspapers as classified in the Wage Board decision and in the light of all other relevant circumstances, the Central Government shall, as soon as may be after the commencement of this Act, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Committee consisting of an equal number of persons nominated by the Central Government to represent employers in relation to newspaper establishments and working journalists, a chartered accountant nominated by the Central Government and a judicial officer not below the rank of a High Court Judge, who shall act as the Chairman thereof."

My amendment seeks to reconstitute the committee as suggested therein. I do not wish to cover the same ground once again. I would try to plead with the hon. Minister that this committee staffed by junior officers of the Government of India and charged with duty of reviewing the decisions of a Board presided over by a High Court Judge is not only unfair to the Board itself but will also fail to invoke that confidence and trust in the parties concerned.

[Shri Mahanty]

The hon. Minister has not answered the point which was raised as to what would happen if the same issue had been referred to the same Wage Board with only extended terms of reference, namely, the capacity of the various units to comply with the recommendations of the Board. Instead of that what the clause proposes is to refer the same question to another committee the composition of which will give rise to serious misgivings. I am not sure if this issue will not be taken up in other forms also. I hope the hon. Minister will see that this kind of reprehensible principle is not introduced in a legislation of this nature; and in future also the decisions of a competent authority presided over by High Court Judges are not left to an official body presided over by an officer of the status of a Joint Secretary, to be reviewed.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: Shri Mahanty's amendment is before the House. There is one Government amendment also.

**Shri Nanda**: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, lines 11 and 12,—

*omit* "as soon as may be after the commencement of this Act".

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: This amendment is also before the House.

**Shri Nanda**: This is consequential to the fact that the Bill has come in place of the Ordinance. It covers the period which has already passed.

In answer to the hon. Member, Shri Mahanty's point, I do not think that I need say anything more because I have already attempted to clear the position. It is not any question of raising a committee over the head of a judicial body. In fact some members of this committee were in the judicial service and they would have been long ago, some of them, members of the Supreme Court. But that is not the point. It is not this committee which is taking a decision; it is helping the Government to arrive at a certain appreciation of the capacity of the industry to pay. There is nothing wrong in it.

**Shri Jadhav** (Malegaon): Sir, on a point of order, there is no quorum in this House.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: The bell is rung. Now there is quorum. I shall now put amendment No. 2 to the vote of the House. The question is:

Page 2,—

*for* lines 7 to 22, *substitute*—

"3. (1) For the purpose of enabling the Central Government to fixe rates of wages in respect of working journalists, having regard to the conditions of the working journalists and the capacity of the various categories of newspapers as classified in the Wage Board decision and in the light of all other relevant circumstances, the Central Government shall, as soon as may be after the commencement of this Act, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Committee consisting of an equal number of persons nominated by the Central Government to represent employers in relation to newspaper establishments and working journalists, a chartered accountant nominated by the Central Government and a judicial officer not below the rank of a High Court Judge, who shall act as the Chairman thereof."

*The motion was negatived.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: The question is:

Page 2, lines 11 and 12,—

*omit* "as soon as may be after the commencement of this Act".

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

> "That Clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 4.**—(*Functions of Committee*)

**Shri Naushir Bharucha:** Sir, I beg to move my amendments Nos 9, 10 and 11.

(1) Page 2, line 39,—

*after* "wages" *insert*—

> "or any other matter relevant to the subject matter of inquiry"

(2) Page 3, line 2,—

*after* "thirty days" *insert*—

> "or such further time as the Committee may grant."

(3) Page 3, line 3,—

*after* "shall" *insert* "*inter alia*".

**Shri Bhakt Darshan:** Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3, line 21,—

*for* "whether prospectively or" *substitute* "even".

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Are there any other amendments? None. So, clause 4 along with amendments Nos. 9, 10, 11 and 32 is before the House.

**Shri Naushir Bharucha:** Sir, my amendment seeks to enlarge the scope of the representation which the newspaper proprietors and working journalists are called upon to make. The scheme of the Bill is this. After this particular committee is formed, a notice is issued to the parties and in the notice is prescribed the extent to which they can make representations. The newspaper proprietors have not got the fullest freedom to make representations of the capacity to pay or any other subject matter. The words are:

> "The committee shall by notice published in such manner as it thinks fit call upon newspaper establishments and working journalists and other persons interested in the Wage Board decision to make such representations as they may think fit as respects the Wage Board decisions . . ."

The Supreme Court has already held that the Wage Board decision does not take into account the capacity to pay. So, on a strict interpretation of the Wage Board decision as it stands, what will happen? Two things have been mentioned: Wage Board decision and rates of wages.

Clause 4(1) should be taken along with clause 4(2) which further restricts the nature. It says:

> "Every such representation shall be in writing and shall be made within such period not exceeding thirty days, as the Committee may specify in the notice and shall state . . ."

They have been enumerated under (a), (b) and (c). Clause 4(2) (c) says:

> "the alterations or modifications, if any, which, in the opinion of the person making the representation, should be made in the Wage Board decision and the reasons therefor."

This does not mean necessarily that it is open to the newspaper proprietors to say that the whole thing must be scrapped because the representation to alteration and modification does not include the representation about its rejection. Therefore, a plea may be raised later on that from the very start, they were handicapped because they did not have full freedom to make representation.

[Shri Naushir Bharucha]

The hon. Minister may point out to the fact that clause 4(2)(a) says: "specific grounds of objection, if any, to the Wage Board decision" and that it covers that. It is not so. When the general words are used in one sub-clause and they are followed by certain other restricted words, the clause as a whole has to be interpreted and the general words are given a narrower meaning. Suppose, the Supreme Court holds that clause (a) has got a narrower meaning or clause 4(1) has got a narrower meaning in the light of clause 4(2)(c), then the newspaper proprietors can very well contend that at the very start, they were handicapped because they were not permitted to make the fullest representation that they wanted. I submit that it may turn out to be a flaw. So, as a matter of extraordinary caution, *ex majore cautela* I suggest that after the words "wages", the words "or any other matter relevant to the subject matter of inquiry" may be inserted. It would mean the fullest freedom given to anybody to make any representation.

Secondly, I have used the words '*inter alia*'. The parties must state these specific things; over and above that they may say anything else. If these words were included, it would enlarge the scope of the representations that they want to make.

Thirdly, I have said: "thirty days or such further time as the Committee may grant". If you enlarge the scope of representation, naturally you must also enlarge the time for making that representation. The idea is this. The Government will ultimately base its decision on these recommendations. If it is made to appear to the Supreme Court that the recommendations themselves were arrived at on restricted representations which only the newspapers could make on account of this section, the whole Act will collapse again. Nothing is lost by accepting these amendments and everything is likely to be endangered by not accepting it. Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Minister to accept this amendment by way of abundant caution.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta** (Calcutta—East): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a particular lacuna in clause 4(1). The representations which may be made are confined to working journalists, newspaper establishments and other persons interested in the Wage Board decisions. Now, the question would come up whether associations of journalists and trade unions of journalists would be entitled to make representations in regard to the Wage Board decision. I am quite aware of the fact that under the General Clauses Act, persons would include bodies corporate or even incorporate so that 'persons' may cover all of them. But the General Clauses Act applies unless there is anything repugnant in the context and lawyers' ingenuity may be brought into play in trying to convince the court that there is something repugnant in the context which should make it confine it to natural persons only and not to artificial persons. If I were inclined to accept a brief on behalf of the employers which I will never, I could have easily built up a plausible argument on that basis but personally my view is, as the sub-clause is drafted, artificial persons in the shape of associations would be entitled to make representations. But I am concerned about the possibility of the other point being raised and, even if it does not ultimately succeed, it is quite conceivable that a rule may be obtained from a High Court to stop further proceedings of the committee of officials investigating into the affairs of a certain paper or a group of papers on the ground that it was considering representations made by an association which was not entitled to make it.

Therefore, I would suggest that even at this stage the hon. Minister might make an amendment by which associations or trade unions of journalists would be specifically mentioned as bodies which were enabled to make representations. Obviously, they are the most interested in the Wage Board's decision and I think, for the purpose of avoiding future litigations or future delays on the score of litigations, whatever its ultimate results may be, a specific inclusion should be made that associations or trade unions of journalists or federations of journalists should be entitled to make representations.

**श्री भक्त दर्शन** : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मै ने धारा ४(३) के सम्बन्ध में जो सशोधन प्रस्तुत किया है, उस के विषय में कुछ शब्द कहना चाहता हूं । माननीय श्रम मंत्री महोदय ने अपने प्रारम्भिक वक्तव्य में यह स्वीकार किया था कि करीब सात आठ वर्षों में श्रमजीवी पत्रकार इस बात की माग करते रहे है कि उन के वेतन-स्तर निर्धारित किये जाने चाहियें और लागू किये जाने चाहियें । यह कार्यवाही किसी न किसी प्रकार अब तक टलती आई है । अब इस बिल में उपधारा (३) के अन्तर्गत समिति को यह अधिकार दिया गया है कि

> any such recommendation may specify, whether prospectively or retrospectively, the date from which the rates of wages should take effect."

मैं चाहता हूं कि समिति को यह अधिकार नहीं दिया जाना चाहिये कि वह कोई आगे की तारीख निश्चित कर सके । मै यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि इस मामले में पहले ही कितनी देर हो चुकी है । माननीय मंत्री जी जानते हैं कि जिस समय वेज बोर्ड ने अपना निर्णय दिया था, तो कई समाचार-पत्रों और समाचार-एजेंसियों ने अपनी उदारता के कारण उस निर्णय को लागू कर दिया था, लेकिन कई समाचारपत्रों और समाचार-एजेंसियों ने ऐसा नहीं किया । और यह अतिरिक्त वेतन भी वापस ले लिया गया है । समिति को यह अधिकार होना चाहिये कि वह यह सिफारिश कर सके कि उस के निर्णय को किसी पिछली तारीख से—रीट्रोस्पेक्टिवली—लागू किया जाये, लेकिन मै उस को यह अधिकार देने के पक्ष में नहीं हूं कि वह कोई प्रौस्पेक्टिव तारीख भी निश्चित कर सके । इस का मतलब तो यह है कि समिति जनवरी मे अपनी रिपोर्ट देती है और आप कहेंगे कि हम एक, दो, पाच या दस वर्षों के बाद इसे लागू करेंगे । मं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि उस को यह अधिकार देने का मतलब क्या है ? जब सरकार और श्रम मंत्री महोदय स्वय यह चाहते है कि इस को जल्दी से जल्दी लागू किया जाये, तो फिर आगे की तारीख निश्चित करने का अधिकार देने का मंशा मेरी समझ में तो नही आता । अगर मुझे कोई उचित कारण बताया जा सके, जिस के आधार पर यह अधिकार दिया जा रहा है, तब तो मैं इस को स्वीकार करने के लिये तैयार हूं । लेकिन मेरी अक्ल के मुताबिक जब इसमें पहले ही बहुत देर हो चुकी है, तो यह अधिकार देना कि इस को बहुत आगे जा कर—प्रौस्पेक्टिवली—लागू किया जा सकता है, उचित नही है और इस लिये मं अपना यह संशोधन पेश करना चाहता हूं ।

**Shri Nanda**: Sir, the hon. Member Shri Bharucha's point and also the other points raised must be considered very seriously, because we all want that there should be no loophole left, no possibility of anything coming in which would further prolong this agony and suspense. But there are certain standards of legal drafting, and just as there should be no deficiency, nothing omitted, so also, things which are superfluous, possibly, will be as distasteful from the point of view of proper drafting.

As I read the Working Journalists Act, I find that the powers of the Wage Board were restricted to this question of fixation of rates of wages. That limits the scope and, therefore, what-

[Shri Nanda]

ever further has been said here, it brings the functions of this committee within the same limits, it secures that position. Therefore, his amendment seeking to insert the words "or any other matter relevant to the subject matter of inquiry" possibly would not be needed, would be out of place.

Then there was an argument that "modification and alteration" is not sufficient because it would be open to a committee, to a court, to a body entrusted with this task to scrap it altogether. To scrap what? There is a certain scale of wages. The Wage Board gives something more here and there. It is open to the parties to say that whatever has been given more should be taken away or that it should be further increased. But, Sir, I have got profound respect for courts, and for the Supreme Court. Certainly it is inconceivable that anybody will say that there should be no wage scale at all. What is it that is going to be scrapped altogether? A Wage Board decision being modified means, that anything that has been given over and above what was prevailing can be modified or altered. Well, a committee could say that no increase is justified. That would come within the phrase "alterations or modifications". Therefore, although we should exercise very great caution in regard to these things, there is certainly a limit to that also. And I believe, Sir, that the working journalists are not so fated that they should never come to an end of this trouble, and that we may have to think of things where in the exercise of natural circumspection and caution we should go on thinking of all kinds of fears and possibilities and introduce phrases which on the face of it do not appear necessary. Although I do not claim any special legal knowledge in these things, I am advised, and on a plain reading of the words and also the explanation that I have given, I feel that it is really not necessary to further reinforce and fortify the language of this clause in order to make sure of the position that is intended.

Regarding the word 'persons' the word are: "newspaper establishments, working journalists and other persons". It is very clear that this should normally include those federations also, and the words "other persons" would cover any extension that is necessary, and all those who are entitled to make representations can come in.

There was one point raised about 'retrospective' and 'prospective'. About 'retrospective', of course, there is no objection. 'Prospective' means, it was said, that they could fix the scale three or four years ahead of the date of decision. That is not certainly any common sense rendering of this word. It may be that the decision is given today and the application may be a day or two later. If it is not to be retrospective, it is just put in as a precautionary word and, at any rate, the discretion of the committee is there. I do not think it is capable of that kind of interpretation. I do not think there is any ground for that kind of apprehension that a committee will say that whereas the Wage Board said that a scale should come into effect from May, 1956, it will come into effect from May, 1964.

I do not think there is any such possibility. I think the hon. Member need not have any such fears.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: Then ultimately the decision would be with the Government.

**Shri Nanda**: That also answers the point. The Government can rectify any such omission.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: Should I put any amendments separately to the vote?

**Shri Naushir Bharucha**: Amendments 9, 10 and 11 may be put first

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

Page 2, line 39 *after* "wages" *insert:*—

"or any other matter relevant to the subject matter of enquiry"

*The motion was negatived.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

Page 3, line 2, *after* "thirty days" *insert*—

"or such further time as the Committee may grant"

*The motion was negatived.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

Page 3, line 3, *after* "shall" *insert* "*inter alia*"

*The motion was negatived.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

Page 3, line 21, *for* "whether prospectively or" *substitute* "even"

**श्री भक्त दर्शन :** माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो आश्वासन दिया है, उसके कारण मैं अपना संशोधन नहीं रखना चाहता हूं ।

*The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 4 was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 5**—(*Powers of Committee*)

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, in connection with clause 5, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a very serious lacuna. It is undoubtedly a very good clause; under sub-clause (3) of clause 5 an authorised official is empowered to examine the accounts of the newspaper establishments. That is very necessary because the balance-sheet of the profit and loss account cannot be taken at its face-value for obvious reasons. There are many ways of manipulating the balance-sheet and there are many items which go to reduce the profits and which, though they go to reduce the profits really ensure to the profits of the proprietors For instance, the example has been given of high salaries paid to near relations of proprietors which really is a profit to the proprietors' family although it goes to reduce the profits. Similarly, there may be other and more shady manipulations Therefore, to unravel the mystery of the balance-sheet it may be necessary and it will often be necessary, if the Press Commission's views are correct, to examine the accounts very thoroughly.

What would happen if the newspaper proprietors start secreting their account-books? What would happen if they start manufacturing new accounts even pending the examination of their account-books? Normally, the precautions that are provided in these cases are that the account-books in improper cases may be ordered to be seized or impounded in the office of the authority which is examining them. Or, it may be necessary to mark the pages of the account-books to keep their identity so that the figures cannot be changed. These provisions are not there in the Bill. If we started examination of the account-books of the establishments and leave them in the hands of the proprietors to deal with them as they liked, many things might happen.

It happened in the case of a leading Calcutta newspaper. This case had come up before the industrial tribunal. The workers had challenged the plea of incapacity to pay, and the account-books were called. The next day a big fire broke out and the account-books were destroyed. All these things must be avoided, and for this purpose, some powers should be given to the authorised official either to impound the

[Shri Sadhan Gupta]

account-books or to mark the account-books for the purpose of preserving their identity or to seize the account-books in certain cases when they are being deliberately secreted. Without these powers, the power given under sub-clause (3) of clause 5, which is undoubtedly very desirable and necessary, will be absolutely useless, and the newspaper proprietors will find a way to escape liability.

The House should remember that unless we get at their accounts we cannot ever ascertain their capacity to pay. In fact, before the Wage Board, they persistently refused to divulge their accounts. They did so before the Press Commission, and there is no reason to suppose that they will readily comply, in the case of the authorised official.

Therefore, I would earnestly request the hon. Minister to keep this aspect in view and introduce some amendment even at this stage or in the third reading stage, or, if he does not want to proceed in a hurry, let him do it before the Rajya Sabha and bring the Bill back here. But this particular provision must be there. Otherwise, perhaps the whole object of this Bill will be defeated through this lacuna.

**Shri Nanda**: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 4, *after* line 9, *insert*—

> "(4A) Nothing in sub-section (1) of section 54 of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, or in any corresponding provision in any other law for the time being in force relating to the levy of any tax shall apply, to the disclosure of any of the particulars referred to therein in any report made to the Committee by an authorised officer
>
> (4B) Any information obtained by an authorised officer in the exercise of any of his powers and any report made by him shall notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, be treated as confidential, but nothing in this sub-section shall apply to the disclosure of any such information or report to the Central Government or to a court in relation to any matter concerning the execution of this Act."

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: This amendment is before the House.

**Shri Nanda**: The hon. Member, Shri Sadhan Gupta, has pointed out the need for taking care that this Committee and the Government are placing themselves in a position to get at the facts. He has made certain suggestions I am sure that the hon. Member knows the provisions that are being made.

> "The authorised officer may, subject to the directions of the Committee, if any, exercise all or any of the powers which an industrial tribunal may exercise under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) of section 11 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947".

That is, whatever purposes are available to tribunals in all other cases, they are all available to this Committee. We are going much further than that through this amendment. Possibly, it has not been brought to the notice of the hon. Member, Shri Sadhan Gupta. The amendment says:

> "Nothing in sub-section (1) of section 54 of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, or in any corresponding prbvision in any other law for the time being in force relating to the levy of any tax shall apply to the disclosure of any of the particulars referred to therein in any report made to the Committee by an authorised officer".

This is a very special departure being made. The information which was otherwise not available—the information revealed in the course of these income-tax enquiries,—will be available to this Committee. This goes further than anything done so far at any time on such matters. So, this Committee is going to be placed in a position to secure the information that is needed much better than any other tribunal ever was.

The provisions which exist in the Industrial Dispute Act to which reference has been made here, enable the tribunal to compel the production of documents and material objects, etc., and there are various other provisions which have the same effect. So, it is not necessary to do anything more.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

Page 4, *after* line 9, *insert*—

> "(4A) Nothing in sub-section (1) of section 54 of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, or in any corresponding provision in any other law for the time being in force relating to the levy of any tax shall apply to the disclosure of any of the particulars referred to therein in any report made to the Committee by an authorised officer.
>
> (4B) Any information obtained by an authorised officer in the exercise of any of his powers and any report made by him shall, notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, be treated as confidential, but nothing in this subsection shall apply to the disclosure of any such information or report to the Central Government or to a court in relation to any matter concerning the execution of this Act."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

> "That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 6**— (*Power of Central Government to enforce recommendations of Committee*).

**Shri Nanda:** Sir, I beg to move:

Page 4, line 32, *add* at the end "as it thinks fit"

**Shri Naushir Bharucha:** I beg to move:

Page 4, *for lines* 12 to 17, *substitute*—

> "6. (1) As soon as may be after the receipt of the recommendations of the Committee the Central Government shall make an order as it thinks fit.
>
> Provided that before making any such order the Central Government shall cause notice to be given to all persons likely to be affected thereby in such manner as may be prescribed and shall take into account any representations which they make in this behalf in writing or otherwise".

(2) Page 4, *omit* lines 18 to 32.

(3) Page 4, *after* line 37, *add*—

> Provided that in no circumstances whatsoever a working journalist shall be required to make a refund of any part of his emoluments to the employer as a result of retrospective application, if any, of such order."

**Shri Bhakt Darshan:** Sir, I want to move my amendment No. 33.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is the same as 14 and 5. Amendment No. 5 is not being moved. Amendment No. 33 cannot be moved because it is the same as 14. The hon. Member may speak on it but his amendment cannot be moved. All these amendments are before the House.

**Shri Naushir Bharucha:** Clause 6 of the Bill is really the operative clause. What happens under the

[Shri Naushir Bharucha]

scheme of this Bill is, after the recommendations are made by the Committee, the Government has to do certain things. The Government will make an order in terms of the recommendation, accept it or they may make such modifications as they fit, and they may make any other order that they think fit.

Then the procedure is provided, that is, if the modifications in the recommendations of the Committee are of a substantial character, then only the Government will invite the other parties to say what they have got to say before making an order to their prejudice.

But, as the language of the Bill stands, if the modifications, in the opinion of the Government, are of a minor character, then in that case, the Government under the Bill say: we are not bound to hear any parties. My submission is that when the normal rule of law is that before any order is made, minor or major, a party has got to be heard, if that order is to be made against that particular party. Government cannot get away with it by changing the course of natural justice; once it has accepted the responsibility as a judicial body, it cannot alter by the Bill the course of natural justice. Therefore, my amendment says that, in the first place:

> "As soon as may be after the receipt of the recommendations of the Committee the Central Government shall make an order as it thinks fit."

The proviso says:

> "provided, that before making any such order the Central Government shall cause notice to be given to all persons likely to be affected thereby in such manner as may be prescribed and shall take into account any representations which they make in this behalf in writing or otherwise."

The idea is whether the modifications are of a minor character or a major character, so long as an order affecting one side or the other is made, then the Government is bound to hear the party. Otherwise, the High Court might again declare it bad.

My amendment No. 14 is only consequential.

In my amendment No. 15 I have said that when the Government makes such an order, the Government may make that order with retrospective effect. The retrospective effect might favour certain journalists. But the retrospective effect may result in compelling a few of the journalists to refund to the proprietors a part of what they have already secured. A situation like that may arise Therefore, I have provided:

> "Provided that in no circumstances whatsoever a working journalist shall be required to make a refund of any part of his emoluments to the employer as a result of retrospective effect, if any, of such order."

Let it not be understood that retrospective effect is made always to the benefit of the journalists. In some cases, where the journalists are better paid, they may have to refund the difference. Therefore, whatever may be the retrospective character of that order, that should not be to the disadvantage of the journalist. These are my three amendments.

**श्री भक्त दर्शन** : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैने जिस संशोधन की सूचना दी है, उसका मुख्य उद्देश्य, मुझे दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि माननीय नौशीर भरूचा के उद्देश्य से बिल्कुल विपरीत है । भरूचा साहब के संशोधन का मन्तव्य यह है कि जो भी संशोधन किये जायें, चाहे वे बहुत ही साधारण प्रकार के हों, दोनों वर्गों के लोगों की राय जान कर किये जायें, अर्थात् जिन हितों पर उनका प्रभाव पड़ता है, उनको मौका दिया जाए कि वे अपनी बात कह सकें और वह कर सकें;

के बाद ही उन छोटे-मोटे संशोधनों को लागू किया जाए । जहां तक छोटे-मोटे संशोधन करने के अधिकार की बात है, मैं स्वीकार करता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट को पूरा अधिकार होना चाहिए कि वह समिति की सिफारिशों में उन संशोधनों को करके सिफारिशें लागू कर सके ।

लेकिन आगे चल कर खंड २ में जो व्यवस्था रखी गई है मैं उसको बहुत ही 'डायलेटरी' चीज़ मानता हू, क्योंकि इसका मतलब यह होगा कि नयं सिरे से जो गड़े हुए मुर्दे हैं, उनको उखाड़ा जाय । एक बार वेज बोर्ड ने बड़ी भारी जांच-पड़ताल करके फैसला किया, जिसको सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने इस आधार पर रद्द कर दिया कि उसमें 'कैपसिटी टू पे' की बात को ध्यान में नही रखा गया । इसके बाद नये सिरे से यह कमेटी बनाई गई है और उसको तीन महीने का समय दिया गया था और अब इस समय को दो महीने के लिए और बढा दिया गया है । इस तरह से इस कमेटी को अपनी सिफारिशें करने मं छः-सात महीनं लग सकत हैं । इसके बाद भी गवर्नमेंट अगर उसकी सिफारिशों मे परिवर्तन करना चाहे और उसके पास इस तरह के स्मृतिपत्र आये या उससे माग की जाय तो फिर नयं सिरे से उस पर विवाद शुरू होगा और दोनो पक्षों की बातें सुनी जायेंगी । इसी खंड के भाग "ब" में यह भी लिखा है कि अगर गवर्नमेंट उचित समझे तो वह फिर से किसी मामले को इस समिति के सुपुर्द कर सकती है । इस प्रकार इस खण्ड के द्वारा एक ऐसा सिलसिला जारी हो रहा है कि इसका कभी अन्त होने वाला नहीं है और यह मामला हमेशा उलझा ही रहेगा । इस वास्ते मैं माननीय मन्त्री जी से अनुरोध करता हूं कि यह जो जाल जंजाल है, इसको वे समाप्त करें । अब यह मामला बहुत पुराना हो चुका है । पहले आपने वेज बोर्ड बिठाया । जो फैसला उसने दिया उसको केवल एक नुक्ते की बिना पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने रद्द कर दिया । अब जो न्यूनता रह गई थी या जो कमी रह गई थी, उसको आप इस विधेयक द्वारा पूरा कर रहे हैं । इसके बाद भी अब कौन सी कमी रह गई है जिसको आप पूरा करना चाहते हैं और जिसको पूरा करन में वर्षों लग सकत हैं ? इस वास्ते मैं अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं कि इस देरी को मिटान के लिए कदम उठाय जायें और यह जो प्रोसीजोर जाल-जंजाल भरा इसमें रखा गया है, इसको समाप्त कर दिया जाए ।

**Shri Nanda:** On the one side, the hon. Member, Shri Bharucha feels that sufficient opportunity is not being given to the parties to know beforehand as to what is in store for them, so that they may be able to make representations and make known the merits of their own stand. On the other side, the hon. Member says that the procedure, as laid down here, is dilatory and too lengthy and involves delays, which should be avoided. I think the position, as it is in the Bill, creates a proper balance between the interests on the one side and on the other

So far as the need for making known to the parties the proposals which are being considered are concerned, there can be no two opinions; there can be no question. In fact the judgement of the Supreme Court was on the essential point whether the demands of the natural justice have been satisfied. Therefore, the Supreme Court pointed out that if the Wage Board had made known and declared what was in their mind, what kind of proposals they were going to consider, if they had applied their mind to any representation that had been made, then, the Wage Board's decisions could not have been challenged. Now, that is exactly what has been done. The Wage Board decision has been taken as the basis. There is something which we are going to consider. What have the parties to say? These proposals have been made known to the parties as a basis. If changes are made, then again we put them for

[Shri Nanda]

further examination, consideration, representation, petition etc. Then we make certain changes. Then they should be made known. In that case, there is no end to it. At some stage, the proposals which have been suggested are going to be changed. If those changes are also to be made known, there will be no end to these series. At one time or the other, the parties are apprised of the position, that is, what is the specific proposal under consideration.

**Shri Naushir Bharucha:** After the Supreme Court judgement, the Wage Board decision has gone overboard. Therefore, that cannot constitute the proposal. Hence my amendment.

**Shri Nanda:** That is true Their decision (the Wage Board's decision) has been struck off. Otherwise, there would have been no need for a Bill Though it is not part of the Bill, it cannot be destroyed. That is used as the basis, the starting point. Whatever they have stated, that is offered to the parties as a matter which is being considered. We will say: these scales, these rates we are going to consider and, maybe, these will be the rates in future. But we will take into consideration everything that has been stated by every party.

Then representations are made on that basis. The Committee, having applied its mind to the material that is furnished, through representations or otherwise, reaches certain conclusions. Those conclusions, if they are adopted as such by the Government with any very minor modifications then, under the scheme of the Bill, there is no further need again to invite the parties to give another series of representations, petitions and so on. If the Government chooses to make some modifications, then again these modified proposals should again be placed before the parties, they should be able to have their say, then Government takes into consideration all those materials, objections and whatever has been urged on behalf of the party, and then takes a decision. I think it is quite fair, and it conforms to the requirements of natural justice.

16 hrs.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** May I put amendments No. 13, 14 and 15?

The question is:

Page 4,—

*for* lines 12 to 17, *substitute*—

"6. (1) As soon as may be after the receipt of the recommendations of the Committee the Central Government shall make an order as it thinks fit:

Provided that before making any such order the Central Government shall cause notice to be given to all persons likely to be affected thereby in such manner as may be prescribed and shall take into account any representations which they make in this behalf in writing or otherwise".

*The motion was negatived.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

Page 4,—

*Omit* lines 18 to 32.

*The motion was negatived.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

Page 4,—

*after* line 37, *add*—

"Provided that in no circumstances whatsoever a working journalist shall be required to make a refund of any part of his emoluments to the employer as a result of retrospective application, if any, of such order."

*The motion was negatived.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: The question is:

Page 4, line 32—

*add* at the end "as it thinks fit"

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: The question is:

That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 7**.—(*Working journalists entitled to wages at rates not less than those specified in the order*)

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: Are there any amendments to be moved?

**Shri Mahanty**: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 5, *after* line 2, *add*—

"Provided that this shall not apply to newspapers not owned either by Companies or Chains, who have not completed the fifth year of their publication on the date the Act is published in the Official Gazette and who have consistently declared loss during the period:

Provided further that if any such newspaper represents to the Central Government in writing that as a result of implementing the provisions contained in Section 7, the establishment is threatened with closure, the Government should after proper enquiry come to the aid of such papers by issuing advertisements."

**Shri Ansar Harvani** (Fatehpur): Sir, I beg to move:

That on page 5, *after* line 2, *add*—

"(2) Any employer who fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence punishable with a fine of one thousand rupees at the first instance and for any subsequent offence with a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees for every day of the commission of such offence:

Provided that any proceeding under this section shall lie only court of a magistrate of the first class having jurisduction over the area and no court shall take cognisance of an offence under this section except on a complaint in writing by the Commissioner of labour."

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: These amendments are now before the House.

**Shri Ansar Harvani**: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my amendment is a very innocent one. Clause 7 is a protective clause which calls upon the employers to pay the specified salary to the journalists. But we have appealed only to their good sense and we must remember the class which we are going to deal with. We have seen the way in which they have evaded income-tax. We have seen the way in which they evade the sales-tax. We have seen the way in which they have cheated even in their death, particularly in paying the duty. Therefore, unless the penalty clause is inserted, we are afraid that the working journalists will not get a fair deal from them. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government to accept my amendment which lays down that if a proper deal is not given to the journalists, the employers will be penalised. We have not given the power to the Government to do it. We have provided for the magistracy and judicial proceedings. Therefore Government should have no difficulty in accepting this amendment.

**Shri Mahanty**: Sir, I have two objectives in moving this amendment. In the first place, I would like to ensure that, the working journalists working in small and medium newspapers are assured of their minimum wage which will be recommended by this committee and which will be approved by the Central Government.

[Shri Mahanty]

In the second place, I would also like to see that the small and medium newspapers are not closed down on account of the implementation of these recommendations. With these objectives, I propose this proviso that—

> "Provided that this shall not apply to newspapers not owned either by Companies or Chains, who have not completed the fifth year of their publication on the date the Act is published in the Official Gazette and who have consistently declared loss during the period:
>
> Provided further that if any such newspaper represents to the Central Government in writing that as a result of implementing the provisions contained in Section 7, the establishment is threatened with closure, the Government should after proper enquiry come to the aid of such papers by issuing advertisements "

It will be remembered that the Press Commission had made three important recommendations. In the first place, the price-page schedule about which the Government have been very slow to move. The hon. Minister stated that the Government have been contemplating speedy steps to implement the price-page schedule. This House has been hearing off and on about the Government's intentions but nothing is moving. We are aware that very powerful interests are working who do not want that this recommendation of the Press Commission should be implemented. Unless the price-page schedule is implemented, how the small and medium newspapers are going to survive?

In the second place, the telescopic rate of Government advertisements and their distribution was a principle which was accepted by the Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is being implemented both at the Centre and in the States. I have not the intention to cite individual cases, otherwise I could have cited any number of cases before the House. This is not being implemented. The Government might assure us that it is being implemented, but that is not so in fact.

Thirdly, the Press Commission had also recommended the fixation of news agency tariff. None of these three important recommendations of the Press Commission have been implemented which would have injected some more paying capacity to the small and medium newspapers for whom I am glad to note that the hon Minister has no less concern. Therefore, I would urge that since it is not going to stand in the way of the working journalists, and since it is not going to save the big newspaper "Barons" in any way, I do not think any harm will be done if this is implemented

Then, I consider it my painful duty to point out here a concrete case as to how, unless this amendment is accepted, the small newspapers will be affected A newspaper of Orissa had been receiving Government advertisements for the last one year It is a paper which is not owned by any of the Ministers. The Ministers in Orissa are connected with some papers. The Chief Minister is connected with two newspapers. Another Minister is connected with another paper and they get full pages of advertisements at the rate which is much higher than the of other newpapers. Now, this particular newspaper had to challenge many of the acts of omission and commission of the State Government. That paper has implemented the Wage Board's decisions to the best of its capacity and ability; even though there were murmurs and discontent in newspaper establishments owned by Ministers, in this establishment there was nothing of the kind. Now the Government has stopped advertisement simply on account of the partisan principle. We are asked to implement the Wage Board's decisions, we have done it, and it is Government's moral duty to see that such newspaper establishments are not closed down unless their intention is to throttle the freedom of publication and the freedom to express one's views. I do not wish to make any broadsides against anyone, but with all humility I plead once again, in view of the fact that the hon. Minister has stated that his concern for the small and medium newspapers is no less, that it is made a both-way traffic and that some paying capacity is injected into these newspapers, who for implementing the Wage Board decisions are threatened with closure. My amendment is an innocuous amendment and I feel that it does not stand in the way of the basic objective that the Government has at heart.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta**: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I of course welcome clause 7 as far as it goes, but here again, I find another difficulty which I would bring to the attention of the hon. Minister. I would request him to give serious attention to it.

It is all very well to say that working journalists would be entitled to wages as fixed by the notification of the Government. Then, the question will arise: who are the journalists who would be entitled to those wages? There are certain working journalists in certain papers. It may be that everyone of them will not make a representation before the Wage Board, that is to say, everyone of them individually will not make a representation although they have the power to do so under sub-section 1 of section 4. Now, will those who do not make a representation be entitled to the wages? That is the first question that arises.

Secondly, many would be employed after the notification is issued fixing the wage scales. Will those who come afterwards be entitled to those wages?

These questions are important because, normally, the rule is that when you provide for deciding a certain matter after hearing different parties, that is to say, in any litigation, the normal binding force of the decision is on the parties themselves. If that rule were to prevail, it will bind those who had made representations before the Wage Board, who are working journalists or newspaper establishments and it would not bind any one else who did not make a representation. It is inconceivable that the entire body of staff of every paper would submit representation, or would even join in a representation submitted. A serious question arises whether, in these circumstances, those who did not make representation would be entitled to derive the benefit of the award. In the Civil Procedure Code, the normal rule of litigation is that only the parties are bound by the judgment. When a departure is made, it is expressly made. The Civil Procedure Code, in Order Rule 8, provides for representative suits in which certain persons and also others are bound by the decision and it becomes a sort of a judgment *in rem*. Similarly, in the Industrial Disputes Act, there is a provision that the award will bind not only the parties to the proceedings, but all employees and employers who may come after these proceedings, future employers or future employees. There is no such provision in this particular Act. I take it, the normal construction of this Act would be that the award would bind only those who were parties before the Committee of officials who had made representations and counter-representations before the Committee of officials. If that were so, it would totally defeat the purpose of this Act. We need some provision either in this particular clause or an independent clause, preferably as an independent clause to provide that the decisions and recommendations of the Committee of officials which are enforced by the Central Government would bind not only the parties to the proceedings before the Committee of officials, but also all other parties who

[Shri Sadhan Gupta]

may be deemed to be successors of the employers and the employees. If the company changes hands, if the newspaper establishment is brought by some one else, it should bind the new company. It would impose an obligation on it to pay wages according to the notification which the Central Government has issued. Similarly, if new working journalists are appointed to that establishment, then also provision should be made that the new employees would be entitled to the same wage rates. This should be specifically provided for as in the Industrial Dispute Act and as in the case of representative suits in the Civil Procedure Code. I hope the hon. Minister will take this into serious consideration and make the necessary amendments. It is not very difficult to make, I think. A clause may be thought of modelled on the section of the Industrial Disputes Act—I think it is clause 18, if I am not mistaken—on that particular section of the Industrial Disputes Act and proviso may be made to supply the lacuna.

**Shri Nanda**: I will first deal with the amendment moved by the hon. Member Shri Mahanty. I appreciate his anxiety on behalf of the small newspapers and we have all concern on behalf of these papers. But, the position is that this thing cannot be dealt with through this legislation. It has been brought in for a specific purpose. This goes beyond that purpose very much. For example, so far as that part of his amendment is concerned which seeks to give some special protection or provide for some special safeguards in respect of a certain class of newspapers, it is a matter which lies within the province of the Committee, in the first instance. It is not bound to make recommendations which are uniform for all classes of papers. In fact, the existing decision or what was the decision of the Wage Board, that also does not apply uniformly to all classes of papers; in those cases, it can certainly take into consideration special claims of different classes of newspaper establishments.

Regarding the question of aid, this, as I said, really is not relevant to the purpose of this legislation. It lies in another sphere and certainly will properly be dealt with there. He has mentioned the question of advertisements. He has made certain remarks which I do not think it necessary to deal with. All I can say is, as I pointed out earlier, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting had at some time—it is on 7th May, 1958; I have got the record of the proceedings—specially dealt with this question of advertisements. I find in the course of these proceedings, he has remarked,

> "I would like to put it before the House, we have a very carefully evolved policy as to on what basis we should give advertisements"

I need not take the time of the House to read what the policy is. But, I may say that that is a policy which takes into account all the factors which must be considered in regard to this matter of advertisements.

With regard to the other amendment, I can well appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Member that there should be certain sanction behind the provisions of the legislation. There was this experience that we were handicapped in the absence of this sanction in enforcing some of the provisions of the Working Journalists Act. This deficiency can only be met by an amendment of that Act. It cannot be brought in here indirectly or in a legislation which has a particular purpose before it. This matter of powers and penalties will be taken up as soon as possible while we bring in an amendment to the Working Journalists Act.

As regards the other question raised by Shri Sadhan Gupta, there is a whole history now of wage determination and awards by tribunals. No such difficulty has been experienced although the language has been really the same. In this particular case, I may add . . .

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** May I point out . . .

**Shri Nanda:** I am finishing; then he may say.

In this case, it has been said:

> "words and expressions used but not defined in this Act, and defined in the Working Journalists Act, shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in that Act."

When we mention the word 'working journalist' here, it is not the working journalist who has made the representation only, but the working journalist as defined in this Act, that is the whole class.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** I may point out that so far, there has been no difficulty because section 18 of the Industrial Disputes Act had specifically provided that the award should bind not only the parties, but also others who might come after them. This kind of provision is not there. The definition of working journalists there does not improve matters because working journalists are defined as certain sections. It does not say here in this particular Bill whether future working journalists would be governed. As I said, the normal rule is that only the parties are bound: not those who were not parties. Therefore, I would request you not to dismiss it so lightly, but have it considered and see if something can be done either here or later.

**Shri Mahanty:** I wish to withdraw my amendment in the hon. Minister's assurance.

**Shri Nanda:** Though my view is as I have expressed it, there is no harm in giving further thought to the matter. If that safeguards the position better, we shall look into it.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** There is no specific amendment. The hon. Minister can consider it.

**श्री भक्त दर्शन :** मैं एक बात पूछना चाहता हूं । अभी माननीय मन्त्री जी ने बतलाया कि दण्ड देने की व्यवस्था इस विधेयक के अन्तर्गत नहीं की जा सकती । और जो दूसरा विधेयक इन्फार्मेशन एण्ड ब्राडकास्टिंग मिनिस्ट्री के अन्तर्गत आयेगा इसको उसमें रक्खा जायेगा तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि उस विधेयक का संशोधन कब लाया जायेगा ?

**Shri Nanda:** The first thing is, it is within the purview of the Labour Ministry and it is being administered by Labour Ministry. Therefore, this Ministry will bring it. As I said, I cannot specify a date. But, our effort will be to bring it as soon as possible.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Has the hon. Member the leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

**Hon. Members:** Yes.

*The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What about 28 ?

**Shri Ansar Harvani:** In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, I would like to withdrawn my amendment.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Has the hon. Member the leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

**Hon. Members:** Yes.

*The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 7 was added to the Bill.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Amendment proposing new clause 7A. Is it going to be moved ? No.

**Clause 8.**—(*Review of order of Central Government*)

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Any amendments?

**Shri Ansar Harvani:** 29.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** 16 is not moved.

**Shri Ansar Harvani:** I beg to move:

Page 5, *after* line 9, *add*—

> "Provided, however, that even within the period of three years on an application made by either party, if the Central Government be of opinion that circumstances require a modification of the rates of wages fixed under section 6 it may pass an order modifying the rates of wages fixed under section 6.
>
> "Provided further that before making any such modification, the Central Government shall cause notice to be given to all persons likely to be affected thereby, in such manner as may be prescribed, and shall take into account any representations which they may make in this behalf in writing."

The Government has tied its hands to . three years. We should realise that the newspaper industry is such that its complexion changes from month to month and even week to week. A paper may improve within the course of a year its financial position, but according to this clause for three years the Government cannot revise its orders. It is quite possible that today a paper may be quite prosperous and within a year its financial position may go down. Therefore, the Government should not tie itself and the hands of the newspaper proprietors and journalists, but keep the thing open so that any party may make a representation. That is all that I want to be made by this amendment.

**Shri Nanda:** Whatever is settled after a long period, many years of enquiry and discussion and legislation and references to the courts, should have a certain, amount of dependability, some steadiness about it. Therefore, it will not be really very proper to disturb an arrangement which has been made after such scrutiny and enquiry repeatedly and frequently. The period of three years is not at all too long considering all the background and history of a case like this.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Need I put it to the vote of the House?

**Shri Ansar Harvani:** No, Sir. I withdraw.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Has the hon. Member permission of the House to withdraw his amendment?

**Hon. Members:** Yes.

*The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

"That clause 8 stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 8 was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 9.—** (*Recovery of money due to working journalists*).

**Shri Naushir Bharucha**: I beg to move:

Page 5, line 21,

*after* "made to it" *insert* "shall".

**Shri Bhakt Darshan**: I beg to move:

Page 5, *for* lines 20 and 21, *substitute*—

> "a working journalist from an employer, the State Government may on its own and shall invariably upon application made to it, refer the question to."

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: These amendments are before the House.

**Shri Naushir Bharucha**: This clause 9 has a separate history. In fact, it has got nothing to do with the main scheme of the Bill, and this amendment is also now coming in this Bill as the result of another Supreme Court judgment which was delivered about the same day when the working journalists judgment was delivered.

This was a case in which *The Hindu* of Madras appealed against a decision of Mr. Mehr where a working journalists sought to recover what he said was due to him and sought the particular and special mode of recovery provided in the Act, namely that as soon it is determined that a particular amount is due to a working journalist, then the State Government can forward a certificate to the Collector and ask the Collector to recover the same as if it were arrears of land revenue. A special procedure is being provided for recovery of working journalists' dues.

Then the question arose as to what would happen in a case where the amount itself was disputed, and there the Supreme Court held that the existing law as it stood did not entitle the working journalist to the issue of a certificate. Therefore, the Government have come and amended this section.

The scheme of the amendment is all right except for one thing. Sub-clause (2) reads:

> "If any question arises as to the amount due under this Act to a working journalist from an employer, the State Government may, on its own motion or upon application made to it; refer the question to any Labour Court..."

Therefore, the discretion is left to the Government to refer or not to refer. If it is the intention of the Government to give a special mode of recovery to the working journalist, then at least on the application of the working journalist a duty must be cast that the Government shall refer such dispute to Labour Court. Otherwise, what is the special remedy that is being provided? Therefore, I have stated that the thing should read this way:

> "If any question arises as to the amount due under this Act to a working journalist from an employer, the State Government may, on its motion or upon application made to it, shall refer...."

The intention is this, that if we want to provide a special mode of recovery for the working journalist, then it should not beleft to the discretion of the Government whether to let him have that mode or not. If the working journalist says this is what he claims from a newspaper ,proprietors, then the Government shall refer it to a Labour Court. Otherwise, the result of it will be that in some cases the Government may favour journalists of a particular trade union etc., in which case they will give the benefit of special recovery, in other cases

[Shri Naushir Bharucha]

they will say: "No, you go the ordinary law" which means pay the stamp fees and go through the whole procedure which may be result in a delay of two to three years.

Therefore, I submit that all working journalists shall be treated on the same level, and therefore this change is suggested by the amendment.

**श्री भक्त दर्शन** : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे संशोधन का उद्देश्य श्री भरूचा साहब ने जो संशोधन रक्खा है उसी की पुष्टि करना है। मैंने जैसा कि अपने वक्तव्य में पहले बतलाया था, बम्बई राज्य में और उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य में इस बीच में जितने भी मामले, श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों के, राज्य सरकारों के ध्यान में लाये गये, जहां तक मुझे मालूम है, उन में से एक भी औद्योगिक न्यायालय के सुपुर्द नहीं किया गया। मैं माननीय मन्त्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि पिछले दो-तीन वर्षों में क्या उन के सामने ऐसी शिकायतें आई हैं कि राज्य सरकारों ने स्वेच्छा से उन्हे औद्योगिक न्यायालयों के सामने नहीं आने दिया, जिससे कि श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों को कठिनाई उठानी पड़ी ?

इस लिये जैसा कि श्री भरूचा साहब ने कहा है, मैं उनके उस संशोधन को और पुष्ट करता हूं और अपील करूंगा कि इस विधेयक में कुछ स्पष्टीकरण होना चाहिय, ताकि अनिवार्यतः ऐसे मामले न्यायालय को जा सकें।

**Shri Tangamani** (Madurai): I rise to support the amendment of Shri Naushir Bharucha as also my amendment No. 24 which is the same as his amendment.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: 24 was not moved.

**Shri Tangamani**: Not moved, but they are the same.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: That is all right. Then he may speak on that.

**Shri Tangamani**: So far as clause 7 is concerned, it is good so far as it goes, *viz.*, that the working journalist is entitled to be paid the wages at the rates prescribed by the wage board or the new committee. The lacuna that I would like to point out is that there is no penalty clause where the employer has failed to pay the wages. Where the employer has failed to pay the wages, there is a provision under the Industrial Disputes Act. Under the Industrial Disputes Act originally there was the appointment of an industrial tribunal, and industrial tribunals being more in the nature of settling industrial disputes, now industrial courts or labour courts have been set up by the recent amendments. Even where the issue has got to be referred to the labour court, it was left to the discretion of the appropriate Government to refer or not to refer. Now, where the question of the total emoluments to be paid to the working journalist is to be left to the discretion of the Government, it may look as though a new dispute has arisen.

Here, to resolve certain disputes, we had a wage board, and after the wage board's decision was overrun by the Supreme Court, we are coming forward with a new legislation which gives a committee; the committee fixes the wages and we know what the wages of working journalists are. After the wages have been fixed, if the employer refuses to pay, there is no penalty clause which says he will be prosecuted. There must be a guarantee at least that the employee will get his wages. Clause 9 seeks to provide for that, but in seeking to provide for that, it is again leaving it to the discretion of the Government.

Where a dispute is as to how much amount is to be paid, machinery has been set up so far as the Industrial Disputes Act is concerned for referring it to the labour court. Here the Government must provide a mandatory provision for the matter to be referred to the labour court.

I will give a concrete instance. An employee says that he is entitled to Rs. 200 per mensem, that the employer was paying him only Rs. 150. So, in the course of 12 months he says he is entitled to Rs. 600 more. He says that Rs. 600 is the amount that is payable to him. And he refers it to Government. Government may not be in a position to straightway say that he is entitled to Rs. 600. This clause say that Government may refer it to the labour court. But the amendment seeks to provide that as soon as the matter is referred to Government. Government should refer it immediately to the labour court, and the labour court will decide the amount which is in dispute and say that it is Rs. 600 or Rs. 500 anly as soon as that amount is fixed by the labour court, in the light of the other clauses put together, the man becomes entitled to the amount. Otherwise, the matter is again left to the discretion of Government, and Government may or may not exercise discretion. So, the effect of this clause will go, if the word 'may' is allowed to be retained. Hence I suggest that the word 'may' should be replaced by 'shall'.

**Shri Nanda**: what is more important from the point of view of the working journalist is what is provided for in the earlier sub-clause, namely sub-clause (2) of clause 9. . There, there is a sure method provided for recovery of an amount due to a working journalist, and that will be by virtue of a certificate which will be granted; and then, the collector shall proceed to recover that amount in the same manner as arrears of land revenue. That is the real new right which is being conferred on the working journalist. In this clause, it would be found that this sort of thing arises only after the State Government is satisfied that the money is so due. So, if the discretion of the Government were to be questioned, it is really in the earlier part. That is how it begins. Whether any amount is due to the working journalist or not is to be decided by Government after such inquiry as it chooses to make, and if it is satisfied that any money is so due, then these other procedures follow.

Now, what we need to know is what the amount is. In some cases, the amount may be obvious, and it is well known and it is easily understood, and it can be easily ascertained. Then, there is no need for any inquiry, and no necessity to go to a labour court; for, why should there be further delays regarding the steps that we have taken to secure payment for the working journalists? If, however, Government finds that it is necessary to decide the amount that is to be paid, then it may refer the matter to the labour court? Why fetter the discretion of Government in deciding these matters straightway, if it is in a position to do so? If it is not in a position to do so, then it refers the matter to the labour court; otherwise, it does it itself. There could be also other procedures available to it. Therefore, it could easily be realised that Government, when it itself is satisfied that the amount is due, would certainly like to be enlightened or be assured of what precisely the amount is. If it has not the means of ascertaining it itself, then it will certainly send it on to the labour court. Therefore, there is no necessity to bind and fetter the discretion of Government in this matter.

**श्री भक्त दर्शन** : मैं एक स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूं । मैंने एक प्रश्न किया था कि क्या माननीय मंत्री जी के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि कई राज्य सरकारों ने इन नियमों पर पूरी तरह से अमल नहीं किया और क्या आगे के लिये माननीय मन्त्री यह आश्वासन देने के लिये तैयार हैं कि उनका पालन दृढ़ता से किया जायेगा ?

**Shri Nanda**: Actually, at that time, the position was a little obscure Even then, some of the States would refer matters which were brought to their notice to adjudication And as I have said, some of the lacunae in the Act itself have to be removed, and it was at that time that these clauses were brought forward

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: Need I put the amendments to vote?

**Shri Bhakt Darshan**: I want to withdraw my amendment No 34

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: Has the hon Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

**Hon. Members**: Yes

*The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: I shall now put amendment No 17 to vote

The question is

Page 5, line 21,—

*after* "made to it" *insert* "shall"

*The motion was negatived*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: The question is

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill"

*The motoin was adopted.*

*Clause* 9 *was added to the Bill*

*Clauses* 10 *to* 12 *were added to the Bill*

**Clause 13**.—(*Power to make rules*)

**Shri Tangamani**: I beg to move

Page 6, *after* line 31, *add*

"(e) appointment of inspectors, mode of keeping registers etc"

**Shri Ansar Harvani**: I beg to move:

Page 6, *after* line 31, *add*:

"(e) the manner in which records of payment of wages be kept by employers, the powers and duties of inspectors appointed under the Working Journalists Act to inspect the records maintained by any newspaper establishment"

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: These amendments are now before the House

**Shri Tangamani**: I should like that in the rule-making power, the appointment of inspectors, the mode of keeping registers etc may also be included My purpose in adding these is this This Bill is a very short one, and it is not comprehensive, and certain things are left more or less to the imagination of the people who will administer this

For instance, under the Shops and Establishments Act, whenever any question arises, there is an inspector to go into the matter Even under the Industrial Disputes Act, there is an inspector who has to see that the accounts are maintained properly, and where any particular provision of the Act has not been carried out, he has to launch a prosecution, and he has to advise Government as to what should be done But I find no similar provision here for the appointment of an inspector or for fixing the mode of keeping the accounts and other things. So, by way of abundant caution, to give powers to the Central Government to provide for appointment of inspectors, mode of keeping registers etc in the rules, I have moved this amendment.

**Shri Ansar Harvani**: In this clause, Government has not assumed any powers in regard to the manner in which the records should be kept by the employers, about the payment of wages, and about the duties of inspectors. we have nothing to verify the manner in which the records are manipulated by this class of people with whom we are going to deal. We know the story very well that once a person was employed as a book-keeper, and that poor fellow said that he knew double entry, and the employer immediately said, "We want a person who knows three entries, one for me, one for my partner and one for the Income-tax Department". So, Government should have drastic powers to decide the manner in which the records should be kept. Otherwise, we are afraid that at every step, this class of people will cheat their employees as they have been doing in the past. To safeguard against that, it is very necessary that Government should have full powers to give authority to the inspectorate to look into the matter.

So, I hope and trust that the Minister will accept my amendment.

**Shri Nanda**: What is sought to be done by these amendments regarding the appointment of inspectors, regarding registers etc. is something which I do not resist; it is perfectly all right, and it will be necessary to do that. I accept the principle. But this is not the proper place in the rules here. These have to be, in the first place, put into the body of the Act before rules can be framed thereunder. As I said earlier regarding other similar suggestions made before, for penalties etc. this is not the proper place for this suggestion also. This, along with the other suggestions in regard to which I have given my reply, belong to the main Act, and it is there that they will be given a place.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: I shall now put amendments Nos. 25 and 31 to vote.

**Shri Ansar Harvani**: I do not press amendment No. 31.

*The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: The question is:

Page 6,—

*after* line 31, *add*—

"(e) appointment of inspectors, mode of keeping registers etc."

*The motion was negatived.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: The question is

"That clause 13 stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 13 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 14 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

**Shri Abid Ali**: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed.".

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed.".

**Shri Vasudevan Nair** (Thiruvella): I consider this occasion to be a very happy one, because this House is almost unanimously offering support to this piece of legislation. Government are adopting a measure which is intended to do justice to a certain section of our working people. But I wish to submit that certain remarks made by the Minister in his opening speech have given room for misunderstanding.

We all know that the newspaper magnates are carrying on a regular cold war. According to me, their tactics is one of intimidation. The speeches made in their conference, the resolutions passed thereon all go to

[Shri Vasudevan Nair]

indicate that they are not going to accept this lying down. We should take into consideration their criticism of the statement made by the hon. Labour Minister some months back at a Press conference. They have criticised the Minister for giving out a statement that this Committee of officials may finish their work within three months. They have taken serious objection to this statement of the Minister's. Perhaps the Minister wanted to discount the fears expressed by the newspaper proprietors. That may be the reason why in this House in his opening remarks he said that he does not stick to that; the Committee can take its own time, as much time as it liked.

Of course, we all agree that we do not want to hustle the Committee into some hasty decisions. But the remark of the hon. Minister that it can take its own time, it can take as much time as it liked, should not be made use of. That should not create the impression that this can go on. As the Minister himself has stated before us, there is a history of six years for this dispute. I need not go back into the entire story of these 6 years. The working journalists have waited and waited with patience and again this Committee is also going to sit for months and months and is not going to come to some conclusions within a reasonable period, I think it is not going to do good to the future of this industry. I would like the Minister to clarify the position. I hope the entire House is anxious to see that the Committee of officials comes to some definite decisions within a reasonable period, within as short a period as possible.

**16.43 hrs.**

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

So I would like the Minister to clarify his position and to clear the misunderstanding which may arise as a result of his statement in his opening remarks.

I would like to stress another point. If there is not going to be some decision very soon, things are going to get worse because we know that victimisation has taken place. I have before me a list of 24 cases of victimisation in almost all States—Rajasthan, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, Bihar and so on. I hope this may have come to the notice of the hon. Minister already. The amounts which have already been paid to working journalists are being recovered. All these things are taking place. There is unrest prevalent among the working journalists.

So taking into consideration this situation, the Minister should clarify his position and clear up the misunderstanding that may arise because of his statement.

I would like to bring to his notice another issue which was raised by many Members in their speeches, to which the Minister has failed to give any explanation in his concluding speech. That is the question of the Supreme Court interfering on questions of labour legislation. I would like to point out that in February 1950, the then Supreme Court gave a judgment in a case that was before them, the Bharat Bank Ltd. *vs.* its employees. In that judgment eminent judges like Shri Patanjali Sastri and Shri Mukherji came to the conclusion and gave a verdict that labour legislation should, as far as possible, be precluded from the purview of the Supreme Court. The then Chief Justice and Justice Fazl Ali commented that if at all the Supreme Court is going into such cases of labour legislation, then, they should only consider substantial points of law. But, we all know that of late there is a departure as far as the Supreme Court is concerned. They are going into facts and figures and they are taking into consideration other factors. So it is high time, according to me, for the Central Government to consider whether there should not be an amendment to article 136 of the Constitution. And, there is already a Bill introduced by some hon. Member before this House that this article 136 should be amended. I think this is an occasion for Government to consider this question and bring forward some suitable amendment so that labour legislation is taken away from the purview of the Supreme Court. On these two issues I would like the Labour Minister to clarify his position.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Sadhan Gupta.

**Shri Mahanty:** *rose*—

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Mahanty nas spoken at length for about half an hour.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** In very pleasant contrast to the furore raised by the newspaper magnates there is a mere unanimity in this in supporting this Bill. I say mere unanimity because some objections have been raised on the score of small newspapers and I shall try to deal with those objections. But, even in spite of those objections, even those who have objected to this Bill on the ground of protection to smaller newspapers do not agree with the storm that is being raised by the newspaper magnates.

The furore that is being raised is amazing; it is incomprehensible to a normal man with normal common sense. What is wrong with this Bill? There is a committee of officials appointed to go into the capacity of the establishments to pay their reporters. It is not an irresponsible committee. It consists of government officials who are normally conservative and are not too meddlesome as far as individual business is concerned. It is they who go into the whole thing and arrive at an opinion about the capacity of the concerns to pay their employees.

This is very necessary in view of the fact that repeated attempts at conciliation have failed and something must be done, something cries to be done for bettering the lot of the journalists. This is nothing which a normal, honest man should be afraid of. Yet a furore has been raised on that ground. Why this furore? Apparently, Sir, they are afraid of the probe into their capacity. They have good reasons to be. I shall come to that. But they are afraid of that probe.

Obviously, their capacity is a weak point. Why? Because most of the concerns either show losses or very small profits. They have manipulations of accounts. They have all sorts of other devices which have been pointed out repeatedly on the floor of this House like setting up their own relations in highly paid posts, creating high paid posts for them and in other ways by showing loss where no loss really occurs. It is this aspect which they want to preserve inviolate and which they cannot bear a probe into.

In this context, I would again remind the hon. Minister about the necessity to give further powers to the authorised official of the committee. It is true they have the powers of the industrial tribunal but that only relates to discovery. You can only ask the concerns to produce their account books; you cannot compel the production of these. If they do not produce them, you can proceed on certain basis. But if they produce the balance sheet which reveals certain things and if the workers are unable to produce enough evidence to refute the balance sheet which can only be offered from the books themselves, then there is no way of refuting the balance sheet and the board will have to pronounce in favour of the employers. This may be all right in a civil suit as between private litigants. That is why it was enacted in the Civil Procedure Code but here we are dealing with the question of paramount public importance where the

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decision of the committee should not be left to the whims of private individuals. The committee should have compulsory access to certain documents and books which are necessary for the purpose of arriving at that position. That compulsory power vests neither in our civil courts nor in our industrial tribunals; it vests only in the criminal courts and it has recently been given to the Income-tax Investigation Commission Therefore, some similar power which would enable the committee or the authorised official to direct the seizure of the account books in extreme cases where it is clear that they are trying to secrete all the books is necessary In such cases, public interest demands that these compulsory powers on the model of the powers conferred on the authorities of the Income-tax Investigation Commission should be available to this committee and the authorised officials

I do not want to deal with other matters at great length but I should request the Minister to keep in view this particular lacuna with a view to remedying it. I would also briefly refer once more to the question of representation which I had raised and as I had myself said there was nothing in the interpretation of the section; it would probably be that associations of journalists would be entitled to make representations. But then the other argument is plausible and if a rule is issued by the High Court the whole proceedings would be held up. There is no harm in mentioning journalists' associations.

The hon Minister has said that legislation does not include superfluities. He is mistaken there. If he will consult his law officers they will tell him that *ex abunda cautela*, out of abundant caution, even superfluits occur. What has already been stated by implication is expressly stated and I want precisely that thing should be done.

Lastly, I should like to advert to the challenge that has been thrown by the newspaper industry and the newspaper magnates. Of course, I am not speaking of the smaller newspapers. Some objection has been raised on their score but I submit they have nothing to fear. What is being sought to be taken into account is the capacity of the concerns to pay. It has been held by the Supreme Court and by many industrial tribunals that the capacity to pay is a very relevant factor except in the case of those concerns which are not able to pay minimum subsistence wages. Those concerns have no right to live, those concerns have no right to exist Whatever they are doing, if they can't pay the minimum subsistence level they have no right to exist. Therefore, I am omitting out of account those small papers which cannot pay the bare subsistence level Instances of a Praja Socialist paper or a Communist paper have been given If they want to survive and are not able to pay the minimum subsistence wages, they will have to survive on the work of party volunteers That is the only way in which they can survive, and I think we have altruists enough among our party workers to serve the party and the public by way of journalism even on a very small pittance. That is a voluntary affair But you cannot compel others to serve on anything below subsistence level. Therefore, small newspapers need not have any fear.

**Mr. Speaker**: What is the difference between voluntary and compulsory work here?. Nobody forces a man to go and serve It is open to him to go and work if he wants.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta**: For instance, in our Party the Newspaper Editor agrees to serve for a paltry wage of Rs 35 or Rs. 40.

**Mr. Speaker**: That is due to loyalty.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta**: That is on account of loyalty.

**Mr. Speaker:** And the other man goes to work on a small wage on account of bread. That is also voluntary.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** That is compulsion and not voluntary.

**Mr. Speaker:** As a matter of fact, his mind compels him to work.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** That is because he cannot earn elsewhere.

**Mr. Speaker:** What can be done? The alternative is starvation.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Under those circumstances, he cannot be compelled. Sir, the big newspaper magnates have been dared to throw a challenge at us that if we do it. . .

**Mr. Speaker:** What I am driving at is, even party papers should not depend purely on loyalty....

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** That is true If they do not depend on loyalty, if they want to employ someone, they have no right to pay them below subsistence level.

**Sardar Hukam Singh** (Bhatinda): Loyalty should not be exploited.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Loyalty is never exploited.

Sir, the real threat comes from the bigger newspapers, that if we proceed with this kind of thing the newspaper industry will go out of existence. Now, Sir, we can tell them that although we do not believe their word, we wish it was so as far as they are concerned, because the big magnates have done nothing, done no glorious work for the newspaper industry. They have brought journalism from the heights of idealism with which it started in India and brought it to the gutters. They have completely destroyed the objectivity They have indulged in the most hideous exploitation, in the most unconscionable exploitation of their employees. And, therefore, if they disappear, I do not think the country will lack newspapers to fill their place. We can, on the other hand, as spokesmen of the people, fling back the counter challenge that if they did really go out of existence—which is, unfortunately, very unlikely or, I should say, which is highly improbable—we can assure them that other journalists would supply the void with much healthier journalism than they are providing today.

**Shri Nanda:** Sir, it remains for me only to express the deep sense of gratification that we are concluding now a stage towards the Bill becoming a statute of this country. I have been asked to clarify one or two points which I will try to do briefly. In a press conference, I was asked about the time that will be taken for completion of inquiry by this committee. I said it was my own case and that it was likely to take about three months or so. Then, in the course of my speech here, I tried to clarify my position. That is, it was never intended that it was in my mind that they must complete their work within a certain period, even if they find that they have not been able to secure all the information that they require or have not been able to take such steps as they found necessary for them. So, I made it clear here that this was not a kind of obligation I had created for the Committee. I was in no position to do, and I further amplified those remarks by pointing out to the fact that actually this Committee had asked and secured a further period of two months or so for completing its work. That was a clarification which was necessary from a certain point of view.

17 hours.

I do not want to give a further clarification which will destroy the purpose of my earlier clarification, that is, to be called upon now to say that "No, they must do their work within a certain time". I do not want to say that, but I wanted to make it clear. They may take the time they

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may like. They would not like to take a single day more. I am sure of that fact. It is a very highly responsible body of officers who have been entrusted with the task. They will be keen, very earnest, and they will be anxious to complete it in the quickest time possible. I am absolutely sure of that fact and, therefore, I do not think I need say anything more on that subject. I myself am keener than anybody else that not a day more should be taken over it than can be helped.

Some other suggestions were made about the scope of certain words and the need to clarify certain provisions in order to make the legal validity absolutely sure and clear. I do not choose to pit myself against the hon Member who knows very much more of law than I do. I had already indicated earlier also that although on a plain reading of these provisions, I do not think it will be necessary to do anything more, I have already offered —I repeat that offer—that for safeguarding what we are intending to provide through this legislation, we will certainly examine all those risks which have been pointed out by the hon. Member, and we will see that we will do our best to avoid any loopholes remaining in the context of this legislation.

Just one more point about my being very moderate and restrained in dealing with the employers. That is, I have not attacked them, and I have not said nasty things about them, whatever the feelings may be. The question is that I have to be helpful to the employers and the working journalists at various stages, and I have a straight business before me to see that they secure justice as quickly as possible. Ultimately, they have again to live together, work together, and at least on my part, I do not want to make any contribution which will lead to a greater estrangement and bad feelings among the parties. I feel that I have tried to do my part in a manner which will not only be calculated to promote justice but also to secure better relations between the various sections of the industry later on.

Sir, I have done.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya** (West Dinajpur): I hope no loophole will be left for party volunteers to come in and oust the working journalists.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Would it be possible to make a provision so that the Committee can pronounce its recommendation in individual cases, without waiting for the decision on the class or group? Otherwise, if every account has to be gone through before the opinion is pronounced, it may take a long time, because there are a large number of newspapers. Everyone need not wait till everyone else's account has been looked into.

**Mr. Speaker:** I find that the Minister has no comments to make. Now the question is:

> "That the Bill, as amended, be passed"

*The motion was adopted.*

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**17.06 hrs.**

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has informed me that the hon. Finance Minister is leaving for England. As such, he wants the Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1958, which stands in his name and which is the first Bill to be taken up next to be put off till the end of the week, when others will take it up. So, the next Bill in the Order Paper will be taken up. I suppose the House agrees with this.

**Some Hon. Members:** Yes

**17.07 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 26th August, 1958.*

[*Monday, 25th August, 1958*]

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| 460 | Railway Line between Hatia and Muri | 2591 |
| 461 | Cancellation of licences of merchants of Kharagpur | 2591 |
| 462 | Bridges on National Highways (Mysore State) | 2592 |
| 463 | Janki Sugar Mills | 2592-93 |

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—*contd.*

| S.Q. No. | *Subject* | COLUMNS |
|---|---|---|
| 464 | Food scarcity in Eastern U.P. | 2593-94 |
| 465 | Air Accident | 2594 |
| 466 | Tour of Foreign Countries | 2595 |
| 467 | Unloading of Food Stuffs | 2595 |
| 468 | Scarcity Areas in U.P. | 2596 |
| 469 | Railway overbridge at Manmad | 2596-97 |
| 470 | Tourists Traffic to Kulu and Kangra Valleys | 2597 |
| 471 | Santa cruz Airport | 2597-98 |
| 472 | Retrenchment of D.V.C Personnel | 2598-99 |
| 473 | Assam line of N.E.F. Railway | 2599 |
| 474 | Overbridge in Jangpura | 2599 2600 |
| 475 | Porterage Rates | 2600 |
| 476 | Seed Multiplication Farms | 2601 |
| 477 | Erosion of Southern shore of Dhanushkodi | 2601–02 |
| 478 | Scarcity of drinking water in Delhi | 2602 |
| 479 | Survey of T.B. in the Country | 2602–03 |
| 480 | Late arrival of G.T. Express | 2603 |
| 481 | Bunds in Mehrauli Area, Delhi | 2603–04 |
| 482 | Fire in Bombay Docks | 2604 |
| 483 | Cancellation of Night Train on Dronachallam Secunderabad Metre gauge section | 2604–05 |
| 484 | Summary powers for general Managers | 2605 |
| 485 | Delhi School Buses | 2605–06 |
| 486 | Working and Retiring Room for Journalists at Airports | 2606 |
| 487 | Procurement of Rice | 2607 |
| 488 | Export of Rice from Orissa to Bihar | 2607 |
| 489 | Loss of Wagon Fittings in Collieries | 2607–08 |
| 490 | *Strike by Auto Rickshaw drivers in Delhi* | 2608 |
| 491 | Milk supply Scheme for Delhi | 2608–09 |
| 492 | Waiting Rooms for Third Class Women Passengers | 2609-10 |
| 493 | Increase in Air Fares | 2610 |
| 494 | Agronomic Experiments | 2610–11 |

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—*contd.*

| S.Q. No. | *Subject* | COLUMNS |
|---|---|---|
| 495 | Indian Airlines Corporation | 2611 |
| 496 | Reservation of Third Class Sleeping Berths | 2612 |

| U.S.Q. No. | | |
|---|---|---|
| 790 | Overcrowding in Passenger Trains | 2612 |
| 791 | Goods Train Derailment ment near Bhatinda | 2613 |
| 792 | Strike by Porters at Etawah Station | 2613-14 |
| 793 | Sugar Mills in Bombay State | 2614-15 |
| 794 | Central Forest Research Institute, Dehra-Dun | 2615 |
| 795 | Rural water supply Schemes in Bombay State | 2615-16 |
| 796 | Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Posts and Telegraphs Department | 2616 |
| 797 | Post Office Bhubaneswar | 2616-17 |
| 798 | West Coast Road | 2617 |
| 799 | Gaon Sabha for Backward Areas | 2617-18 |
| 800 | Vegetable Oils | 2618-19 |
| 801 | Construction of Goods Shed at Charkhi-Dadri Station | 2619 |
| 802 | Opening of Station between Charkhi- Dadri and Manheru | 2619-20 |
| 803 | Gaushalas in Punjab | 2620 |
| 804 | Bridge at level crossing in Ambala | 2620 |
| 805 | Punjab Road Development Scheme | 2621 |
| 806 | Khandwa Hingoli Rail Link | 2621 |
| 807 | State Warehousing Corporation in Punjab | 262 |
| 808 | Cotton Cultivation | 2622-23 |
| 809 | Vegetables | 2623 |
| 810 | Forest Development in Punjab | 2623-24 |
| 811 | Secondary Schools in Kishonganj Area Railway Colony | 2624 |
| 812 | Equipment for Indian Railways | 2624-25 |
| 813 | Facilities at Post Offices for Small Savings | 2625-26 |
| 814 | Soil Erosion | 2626 |
| 815 | Unauthorised Constructions in Delhi | 2627 |

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—*contd.*

| U.S.Q. No. | *Subject* | COLUMNS |
|---|---|---|
| 816 | Canal Water Supply Delhi | 2627-28 |
| 817 | Thefts and Dacoities in Trains | 2628 |
| 818 | Maize | 2628-29 |
| 819 | Price level of Foodgrains | 2629 |
| 820 | Report of the River Valley Projects Technical Personnel Committee | 2630 |
| 821 | Development of Cotton | 2630-31 |
| 822 | Soil Conservation Seminar | 2631-32 |
| 823 | I.L.O. | 2632-33 |
| 824 | Groundnut Cultivation | 2633-34 |
| 825 | Survey of New Lines in U.P. | 2634 |
| 826 | Cultivation in Mysore | 2635 |
| 827 | Azamgarh-Goshaiganj Rail Link | 2635-36 |
| 828 | Working Plan in Jubbal Forest Division | 2636-37 |
| 829 | Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh | 2637 |
| 830 | Railway level crossing | 2637-38 |
| 831 | Derailment of Goods Train | 2638-39 |
| 832 | Railway Accident on Sealdah | 2639 |
| 833 | Foreign Exchange for purchase of New Ships | 2639-40 |
| 834 | Hubli-Karwar Railway | 2640-41 |
| 835 | Rice and Wheat | 2641-42 |
| 836 | Deodar and Kail Plantation | 2642 |
| 837 | Passenger Amenities on Trains | 2642-43 |
| 838 | Joint water supply Scheme at Manmad | 2643-44 |
| 839 | Drainage water at Manmad Railway Quarters | 2644 |
| 840 | Sugar Mills | 2644 |
| 841 | Special Inspector for Fake Ticket Squad | 2645 |
| 842 | Postal Division | 2645 |
| 843 | Ferozepore Railway Station | 2646 |
| 844 | Reclamation of Land | 2646 |
| 845 | Airport Consultative Committee | 2647 |
| 846 | Regional Horticultural Research Stations | 2647-48 |
| 847 | State farm at Suratnagar | 2648 |
| 848 | Indian Posts and Telegraphs Museum | 2648 |

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS—*contd.*

| U. S. Q. No. | *Subject* | COLUMNS |
|---|---|---|
| 849 | Community Development and N.E.S. Schemes in Punjab . . . . | 2649 |
| 850 | Payments of Cane price to Cultivators in U.P. . | 2649-50 |
| 851 | Cooperative Farming . | 2650 |
| 852 | Ginger . . . . | 2650-51 |
| 853 | Supply of Rice to Kerala State . . . . | 2651-52 |
| 854 | Parlakimedi-Light-Railway | 2652 |
| 855 | Seamen Employment Offices | 2652-53 |
| 856 | Civil Hospital, Imphal . | 2653 |
| 857 | Loan for Shipping Companies . . . | 2653-54 |
| 858 | Procurement of Paddy in Tripura . . . | 2654 |
| 859 | Import of Foodgrains . | 2654-55 |
| 860 | Import of Timber . . | 2655-56 |
| 861 | Visual Omni-directional Range System at Santa Cruz . . . . | 2656-57 |
| 862 | Rains in Delhi . . | 2657 |
| 863 | Goods Brake Van . . | 2657 |
| 864 | Office of the Railway Minister . . . | 2658 |
| 865 | Cement Factory at Charkhi Dadri . . . . | 2658-59 |
| 866 | Traffic congestion in Delhi | 2659-60 |
| 867 | Sub-Post Offices. . . | 2660 |

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT 2660—70

The Speaker withheld his consent to the moving of three adjournment motions given notice of by Sarvashri S.M. Banerjee, Tangamani, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Braj Raj Singh regarding the outbreak of gastro-enteritis in an epidemic form in Delhi.

CONVICTION OF TWO MEMBERS 2670-71

The Speaker informed Lok Sabha that he had received a communication from the Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Ahmedabad, intimating the conviction of Shri Yajnik and Shri Parmar on charges under sections 143 and 188, I. P. C., on 20th August, 1958.

*Subject* COLUMNS

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 2672

The following papers were laid on the Table :—

(1) A copy of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, Published in the Notification No. GSR. 728, dated the 20th August, 1958, under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951.

(2) A copy of each of the following Notifications under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(i) G.S.R. No. 685, dated the 9th August, 1958;

(ii) G.S.R. No. 695, dated the 16th August, 1958.

(3) Notification making applicable certain provisions of the Insurance Act to the Life Insurance Corporation.

(4) Copy of a pamphlet containing the Resolutions passed and certain speeches made at the recent All-India Conference of Newspaper Publishers.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA 2672-73

Secretary reported two messages from Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha had no recommendations to make to Lok Sabha in regard to the following Bills :—

(1) The Mineral Oils (Additional Duties of Excise and Customs) Bill, 1958, passed by Lok Sabha on the 13th August, 1958.

(2) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1958, passed by Lok Sabha on the 16th August, 1958.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE 2673-74

Shri S.M. Banerjee called the attention of the Minister of Railways to the derailment of a Passenger train at Revelganj Station on the 19th August, 1958.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram) made a statement in regard thereto.

*Subject* COLUMNS

STATEMENT BY MINISTER 2674—78

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai) made a statement regardng the investment Policy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE 2678

Shri B.G. Mehta moved for the election of one member from among the Members of Lok Sabha to be member of the Estimates Committee. The motion was adopted

BILLS INTRODUCED 2679

(1) The Sea Customs (Amendment) Bill, 1958.

(2) The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 1958.

*Subject* COLUMNS

BILL PASSED . . . 2679—2804

Further discussion on the motion to consider the Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Bill was concluded. After the clause-by-clause consideration, the Bill was passed as amended

AGENDA FOR TUESDAY, 26TH AUGUST, 1958—

Further discussion on the Statutory Resolution *re.* disapproval of the Sugar Export Promotion Ordinance and the motion to consider the Sugar Export Promotion Bill.